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The Microsoft Roadshow hits Amman: Windows 3.1 with Arabic support & Arabic Works

By Zeld Nasser
Special to the Star

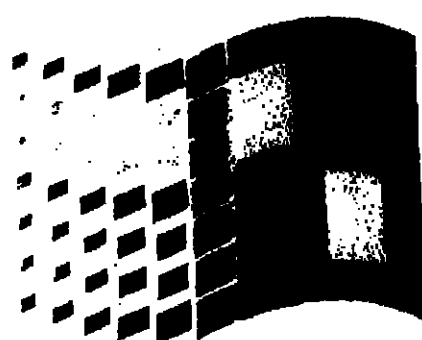
MICROSOFT ANNOUNCED last Monday at their Roadshow held at the Amman Marriott Hotel the official release of Microsoft Windows 3.1 with Arabic support in the region. Mr Charles Allen, General Manager of Microsoft Middle East, made his announcement during a presentation which included a full demonstration presented by Wahhab Baldwin, Senior Engineering Manager for Middle East Product Development, of Windows 3.1 with Arabic support and also Microsoft Arabic Works. Microsoft distributors in Jordan, Mr Ahmad Kalkaso, Marketing Manager for the Middle East and Mr Ramzi Al-Zeine, General Manager of Specialized Technical Services (STS), were also present.

Microsoft Windows 3.1, which was released in April this year, has already sold 8 million copies world-wide and is available in eight languages. In the Microsoft headquarters back in Redmond, Washington, thirty people are responsible for developing Windows products for the Middle East and North Africa.

Microsoft has been working for eighteen months to incorporate Arabic as a language in the whole Windows project. Microsoft's MPPD (Middle East Product Development) division are those responsible for developing enabled and localized developments. Enabled programs include menus and documents in English, but modified to support Arabic while localized programs include a translation of menus and dialogues. Bilingual features are to be included to determine whether the user interface is in Arabic or English.

Distribution of Microsoft products in Jordan is taken care of by Specialized Technical Systems (STS) who will act as dealers, re-sellers and will offer technical support. The regional office in

Dubai will offer ISV (International Sales Vendor) relationships. Windows with Arabic support basically offers a stable platform for manufacturers to use in their development to encourage them to produce and start shipping



MICROSOFT
WINDOWS
3.1

مع دعم اللغة العربية

their products to the Middle East. Although copy protection has been removed, a software copy protection is to be developed to protect any application running under Windows.

The package consists of eight 3.5 inch disks and eight 5.25 inch disks with a special booklet for

Windows with Arabic support and Arabic keymaps. The box looks just like the Latin version and will cost the same. On the other hand, Microsoft has decided to remove the copy protection, which could mean that the software might be bundled with PCs sold all over the country.

The Microsoft Arabized products now shipping include Arabic MS-DOS 5.0, released last May, Arabic Works 2.0, released last June and Arabic Windows 3.1, launched this month.

Other products we can look forward to include Bi-lingual Windows 3.1, Arabic Project, Arabic Excel and Arabic Word for Windows.

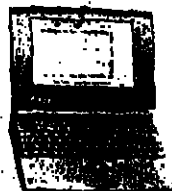
Microsoft are currently working with Manufacturers like Lotus who are to develop 123 Windows, AmiPro and Freelance in Arabic. An Arabic version of Wordperfect is to be expected soon and they're also cooperating with Saudi Soft and Jordanian software houses. "This is part of an ongoing commitment for the market place," said Mr Allen. "It is Microsoft's plan to produce an Arabic version of Microsoft Software products within three months of releasing the original Latin version."

The Microsoft Roadshow continues to tour the region as the company prepares for the release of Microsoft Arabic Windows 3.1, scheduled for November at the GITEX computer show in the United Arab Emirates.

Attention Readers:

IDEAL SYSTEMS, distributors for Apple Computer Inc. in Jordan, have announced the winning number in the lottery on entrance tickets to the Apple Expo '92. The lucky number wins a wonderful PowerBook 100 worth around JD 2000. So everybody out there who visited the event had better find those numbers.

The winning number is 1168. Ideal Systems will keep the competition open for around another month until somebody claims his/her prize.



INTERFACE

A blitz of creativity

IF YOU subscribe to a number of publications, you may have noticed how creative some of the advertisements are, particularly computer related adverts. The good side to all this is that they create the impression that computers are fun rather than scary.

On the same page of a magazine, you may find two totally different advertisements. One of them may be the traditional kind — a couple of computers flying around with light beams released from their screens, while the other includes the slogan that says: "The new OS/2 can do just about anything all at the same time," featuring eight pictures of a circus elephant performing moves, tricks and poses. Then it goes on to say that the software is a completely new kind of "animal." Who said computer users don't have a sense of humor?

Another example: How do you convey to the public in an advert that the mouse you're producing is fast? Easy — you stick four wheels to its side. Some buyers actually asked for the wheels with the mouse!

Apple Computer have also released a fantastic full-page advert, showing the picture of a turtle mounting a helmet, with the slogan: "Compatibility is never a problem with Apple Macintosh." Enough said!

It seems designers and artists should be very thankful for the computer industry, which provides them with a continuous outlet for their creative ideas. As for advertisers in our local press, they're either imported or your usual combination of a good Arabic font and a picture of the product. However, some impressive attempts at humor have appeared recently.

This brings us to the role computers play in the modern world of advertisements. Computers have revolutionized this sector and have taken it to new heights. If you think I'm exaggerating, I suggest you study carefully the sources of many impressive adverts in the local papers and contact the firms responsible. You might be surprised to find that the entire artwork and design is done on computer. The fact is that a creative industry like the computer industry supports other creative industries such as the media and graphic design.

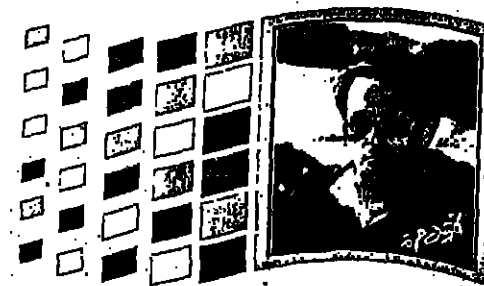
This computer advert mania is special in every sense and reflects a fine mix of humor, creativity and a little bit of craziness.

Here's an intermediate bit of news to mix our main topics together this week. It regards an advertisement on Microsoft Windows 3.1 which has been appearing in the local newspapers, offering users the chance to get their hands on Windows 3.1 with Arabic support for just JD 40.

After snooping around we have discovered that this individual has managed to obtain a Beta version from promotional sources, and that he might be disappointed to find out that Microsoft has no plans to use any form of protection on the product. It seems this is yet another example of the dark shadow of piracy that is affecting our local computer market.

Jerash Windows

HAS ANYBODY noticed that the Jerash Festival's advertisements, spread all over the local papers actually use the Microsoft Windows logo? Yes, the picture below shows a striking similarity. According to our sources, this phenomenon was spotted by STS, Microsoft distributors in Jordan, who immediately asked the committee responsible for the festival to stop running these adverts. No legal complications are expected to result, but a smart remark we heard



Milhem Barakat 3.1

lives of Jordanians more than they think. I wonder if that's good news for Microsoft?

The Star

Jordan's political, economic
and cultural weekly

AMMAN, 30 JULY — 5 AUGUST 1992, VOLUME 3, NUMBER 19

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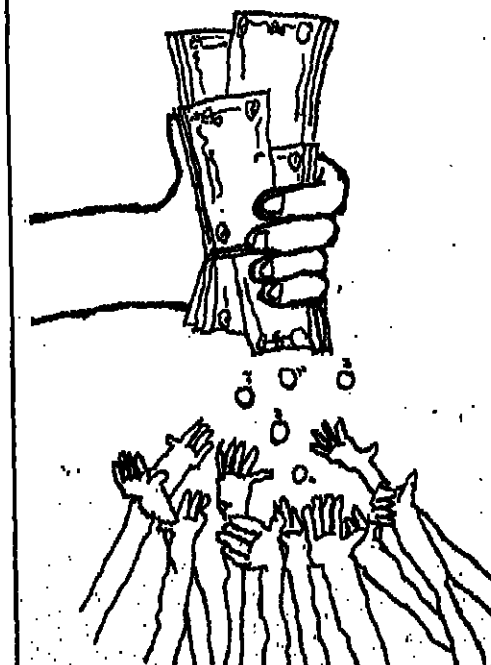
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The Star
Jordan's political, economic
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مكتبة الرضا



JORDAN

W E E K

An unconventional report on
Jordanian news and views

Special Report

Jordanian depositors reject BCCI's \$1.7b compensation plan

Jordanian depositors at the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have rejected a compensation plan worked out by the bank's liquidators and the Abu Dhabi government majority shareholders.

In a meeting of 50 Jordanian depositors held in Amman last week, the chairman of the BCCI Depositors Protection Association Dr Adel Elias urged depositors to reject the compensation package, entitling them to between 30 and 40 per cent of their total deposits in a once-and-for-all deal. The Abu Dhabi government, which has a 77 per cent

stake in BCCI, pledged to pay between \$1.4 to \$1.7 billion to the compensation fund. The bank's total liabilities may exceed \$8 billion.

About 150 Jordanians are believed to have accounts with BCCI's London branch with deposits totalling \$120 million. Dr Elias wants the bank's liquidators, Touche Ross, to renegotiate another deal with Abu Dhabi allowing compensation to be no less than 75 per cent of the deposits.

Last week a London high court rejected an appeal by the BCCI Depositors Protection Association, which challenged the compensation plan which was approved by courts in Britain and the Cayman Islands. The appeal's cost alone was estimated at £100,000.

The judge said the agreement represented the best terms liquidators had been able to achieve with the majority shareholders.

But a Luxembourg judge ruled that a final judgement on the compensation plan will not be made until "the unsecured creditors had been allowed to express a firm 'yes' or 'no'".

The compensation plan requires formal approval from the

court in Luxembourg, where BCCI had its headquarters.

The Luxembourg judge ordered Touche Ross to complete their consultation with the creditors, estimated to number 200,000 in 63 countries with deposits totalling \$4 billion, by 1 October. A hearing has been set for 7 October. Banking sources say the Luxembourg ruling is a victory for the creditors because Touche Ross will almost certainly be forced to renegotiate the deal.

Dr Elias is trying to get international creditors to openly reject the present compensation plan. So far he has secured the support of Jordanian and Egyptian creditors. In Jordan, depositors plan to meet on Saturday to coordinate their next move, which is likely to include sending letters to Luxembourg stating their rejection of the proposed compensation plan.

One Jordanian depositor accused Touche Ross of "intimidating depositors" in order to accept the present package by warning them that if they do not endorse it, they may lose their right to any compensation. He told *The Star* that the present settlement will end up reimbursing depositors for about 10 per cent only of the value of their deposits.

The bank's creditors oppose the 16 March draft agreement between the liquidators and the so-called Abu Dhabi Parties, which includes the Abu Dhabi government, for a number of reasons. One is that the draft agreement allows for the return of between 20 to 25 per cent of the contribution to the Abu Dhabi Parties or to the liquidator of the branches of BCCI SA in the UAE. This means that the Abu Dhabi government will be the major beneficiary of its own compensation plan at the expense of junior creditors.

According to independent creditors, the contribution represents a dividend of approximately 15p to 17p to the pound and not 30p to 40p. It is also payable by instalments: \$800 million seven days after the court approval; \$500 million on 20 June 1993 and any balance on 20 June 1994.

The creditors also raised the issue of a \$2.2 billion sum, which the Abu Dhabi government

waived claims to and has placed with a Cayman Islands company. Abu Dhabi officials claim the sum was misappropriated by BCCI SA officials and has nothing to do with BCCI (Overseas) or its creditors.

The opposing creditors also pointed to the fact that a rescue package was made by Abu Dhabi in May 1991, two months before BCCI's collapse worth more than \$4 billion. They say that the majority of the money payable under this rescue plan has not been received.

Additional opposition has to do with conditions and obligations by the Abu Dhabi government to the creditors, the waiving of legal proceedings against BCCI officials and auditors.

Meanwhile, a commentary in the British daily newspaper *The Independent* said that a report prepared by Lord Justice Bingham on the supervision of BCCI has failed to focus attention on the dubious relationship between BCCI and Capcom Financial Services, whose director and former BCCI's head of treasury Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar, is accused of money laundering.

The newspaper said Capcom's shareholders included former Saudi intelligence chief Kamal Adham and several prominent American businessmen. The paper accused the judge preparing the report of ignoring the fact that Akbar was head of BCCI's treasury when it made billion dollar losses.

The paper alleged that BCCI passed at least \$200 million to Capcom, with no explanation being given for these transactions. The paper also asks why the Bank of England didn't intervene when BCCI was trading such huge volumes of futures in 1984-85. Another question which the paper puts to Lord Justice Bingham is who authorized the transfer of BCCI's treasury to Abu Dhabi in 1987.

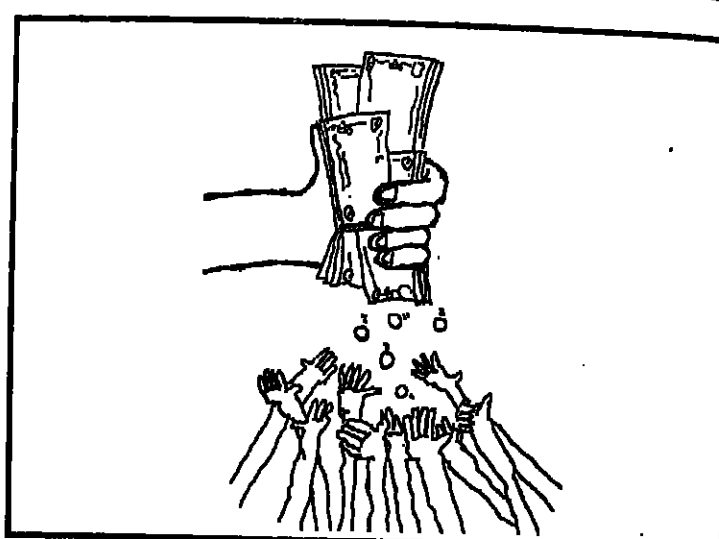
But the paper concludes that while Akbar is facing criminal charges, he was an incidental character and a sideshow. Still, he and Capcom offer the best leads to the "criminal subculture that existed within the bank as far back as 1984."

Israel bans Gaza produce

The Israeli authorities will not allow Gazan farmers to market their produce in Israel. The Jerusalem Post reported this week. It said Gaza produce would be in direct competition with Israeli products. Instead, Israel's Agriculture Ministry has pledged to help the Gazans export to Europe.

"We cannot open up the Israeli market to produce from Gaza, but we will make it easier for Gazan farmers to export to Europe," Israeli Minister of Agriculture Ya'acoub Tsuri said.

A ministry official said that the cheap labor in Gaza makes their produce less expensive than Israeli produce. "There is already an abundance of local produce, and we would be shooting ourselves in the foot if we allowed them to sell in our market," he said. Some 20-25 per cent of the population in Gaza lives off agriculture, and the sector has been hard-hit since the beginning of the *intifada*, the paper said.



Pre-elections warm up?

House divided on Rifai indictment

By a Star Staff Writer

A PRE-ELECTIONS warm up, but a political bomb nonetheless. This is how a veteran Jordanian journalist described the outcome of last Monday's Lower House session, when the House's Investigations Committee accused former prime minister Mr Zaid Rifai and two former cabinet ministers of misuse of authority and mismanagement of public funds.

The two ministers are Mr Hana Odeh and Mr Mahmoud Hawamdeh.

Mr Rifai resigned after the April 1989 riots.

This was the first of a number of cases in the so-called "Corruption Files", which the House is expected to debate during the coming weeks. During the general elections of 1989, most deputies promised voters to stamp out state corruption and alleged that previous governments were guilty of mismanagement, hurting the national economy and accumulating foreign debts.

Monday's four-hour session was attended by 61 deputies, of which 15 delivered statements on the Azraq-Jafr Highway Case. The Investigation Committee accused Mr Rifai, Mr Odeh and Mr Hawamdeh of colluding to award an Indian company a JD 35 million contract to construct a concrete highway between Azraq and Jafr. The committee's report said Mr Hawamdeh, then minister of public works, ignored a technical report which advised against the use of concrete pavement, thus costing the treasury an additional JD 20 million.

It said former finance minister Mr Hana Odeh violated the law by giving the Indian company JD 35 million and other preferences, in stark violation of the law.

The committee accused Mr Rifai of awarding the contract to one particular company, even though another Indian company had made an offer that was JD 3 million less. He was also accused of insisting on using concrete pavement against the advice of a technical company which recommended asphalt instead.

The committee recommended that the three officials be indicted and referred to a special court, the Higher Council, for violation of article 175 of the Penalties Law.

The Higher Court is made of five judges and three senators.

While the House has the constitutional right to accuse former and present ministers, it needs a two-third majority to make an indictment. Observers believe the move to indict the three officials, which may take place on Sunday, will not receive the necessary votes.

One committee member, Mr Hussein Mjali and chairman of the House's Legal Committee, rejected the panel's findings and said there were no legal leads to substantiate a crime. In a lengthy written statement, Mr Mjali presented a general legal study, whose main argument was that the case was a precedent in the

Kingdom's 50-year-old history and that accordingly no evidence was presented to corroborate the committee's claims.

In the heated debate which ensued, deputies exchanged charges accusing Mjali and supporters of "personal allegiance" to Rifai, while others accused members of the committee of moving to settle old scores and personal vendettas.

The Corruption Files were first opened in an historic session on 20 March 1990, when the House formed its Investigative Committee to work with the public attorney's office to investigate nine out of more than 50 possible cases of corruption. The government of Mudar Badran promised to cooperate with the committee and called on citizens to come forward and provide evidence relating to these cases. The public attorney's office summoned former prime ministers, ministers and senior government officials in various departments.

Sunday's session will witness more confrontations between those who are in favor of indictments and those oppose it for various reasons.

One observer told *The Star* that most of those who support the indictments are really interested in rebuilding a popular base for themselves in preparation for the 1993 elections. "Even if they lose the vote, the street will be on their side," he said.

If it comes to a vote, Mr Rifai's supporters will stand up to be counted. A number of deputies and ministers have been in Mr Rifai's cabinet in the past and will surely vote against. What should also be noted is that Mr Mjali, who is a member of the National

ist Bloc, will vote against. The government is also expected to play a part before and during Sunday's session.

Meanwhile, informed sources believe the excitement about Corruption Files will fizzle out as investigations into previous cases found no evidence for official corruption. They note the following cases:

■ The Swagga Reform and Rehabilitation Center Case:

The Investigation Committee ruled that no wrongdoing took place.

■ Financial Settlement with Martin Cowly Case (regarding works on the Hijaz Railway Line):

Final report pending.

■ Abu Nseir Housing Case: The Investigation Committee acquitted all suspects.

■ Ministry of Supply Imports Case:

The Investigation Committee found no evidence for indictment.

■ Imports of Expired Material: No indictments were made.

■ The Rice Case: Case pending in courts.

Other cases which have not been registered with the public attorney include the Television Production Center, the pouch project, King Abdullah Gardens Complex, Ports Authority financing of the Yacht Club in Aqaba, the Airbus and Boeing deals, Petra Bank and others. ■

FOR THE RECORD

By Ahmad Shaker

■ Informed sources told *The Star* that Central Bank Governor Dr Muhammad Said Nabulsi withdrew his resignation, which was to take effect on 1 October.

■ Central Bank assets of hard currency reached JD 1.35 billion on 1 July while gold reserves were estimated at JD 70 million.

■ A number of new appointments are expected soon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Retired Gen. Mute' Hamad will be appointed ambassador, while Prime Ministry consultants Dr Ahmad Qatanani and Dr Ibrahim Badran will be delegated to the Foreign Ministry for some months. Dr Mohammad Bani Hani, general secretary of the Ministry of Municipalities and Mr Mu'taz Bilbisi, general secretary of the Ministry of Water, will be appointed as consultants at the Prime Minister's office.

■ Local and international tender documents will be announced to invite bids to modernize the lighting system at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) and the Amman (Marka) Civil Airport. The tenders include the supply of joint communications systems, asphalt mixtures, replacement of tiles in the halls of terminal one at QAIA, and the drilling of a water well.

■ Palestine President Mr Yasser Arafat is expected to visit Amman next week to undergo medical examinations at the King Hussein Medical City, informed sources told *The Star*.

■ The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has work on a joint Jordan-Egypt electricity grid, which will open in 1995. The project will supply 400 kilovolt from Aqaba Thermal Station through a ten-kilometer under water cable to southern Sinai.

■ Natural Resources Authority (NRA) sources told *The Star* that Jordan and Canada are working together to set up a gas collection and treatment station with a daily capacity of 35 million cubic feet at a cost of \$5 million of which Jordan will contribute \$1 million.

■ A five-year study by the Ministry of Transport has concluded that there will be a need for 1000 new buses with an overall capacity of 4000 passengers. The study said the new buses, which will serve inner Amman routes, will be run by private sector companies.

■ The Water Authority will announce tenders worth over JD 20 million to expand and improve water networks in Fuhels, Salt and Irbid. The tenders include the set up of water treatment stations in Salt, Jerash and Wadi Esere.

Off the record!

■ A small US telephone company, International Discount Telecommunications Corp., claims that its new "peace phone" service "connects enemy countries such as Israel and the Arabs." A release by the company received by *The Star* says the service, which began on 9 July, already enables telephone calls between Israel and Syria among other Arab countries.

Subscribers call a predesignated number in the United States and ask to be connected to any number around the world. The company says "it's impossible for governments to reverse the process."

Eastern Art

Eastern Art Report is the foremost international bi-monthly magazine covering the whole span of the visual arts of Asia—from the Middle East to Japan. The traditional and contemporary aspects of the arts of the Islamic world and of South and Southeast Asia, China and Japan are examined in authoritative articles, interviews and reviews in each bimonthly issue.

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Jerash Festival in retrospect:

Festival fails to serve heightened expectations

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

THE JERASH Festival torch has been extinguished once again. For the last 11 years it has represented Jordan's biggest annual cultural event, a festival of activities gathering every kind of artistic genre and member of Jordanian society. But now that the festival is over, the inevitable questions have been raised: Success or failure? Some say neither. Anything new? Most say no, it was much the same as in

former years.

There are some who traditionally judge the festival by attendance figures and audience reaction. However, to evaluate the festival as a success, its defined character and objectives must be considered above all. Festival director, Mr Akram Masarwah, described the event as "a spectacular cultural and art celebration, seen as an annual crowning forum for the procession of cultural and artistic expression and excellence throughout Jordan and the Arab world." This, he explained,

should provide Jordanian, Arab and international cultural and artistic talent with a platform for public expression.

Evidently, the dimensions of this year's festival were undermined by the Gulf war and the problem of the Amman-Irbid highway, which is still under construction. Despite a program which addressed many different areas such as Arab poetry, theater, music concerts, choral groups and, for the first time, a children's program, it was nonetheless concluded that the festival

was limited and lacked variety.

According to Abu Khaled Batawi, a politics and arts commentator from the Occupied Territories, the festival failed to feature new trends in Jordanian culture; nor did it succeed in its foremost task of promoting the modern Jordanian spirit.

For the audience, the two major issues were the organizational and artistic aspects of the festival. On the surface, transportation, ticket distribution and the festival's site facilities were deemed to have functioned well. Transportation arrangements were provided daily by the Amman JETT company and the public transport authorities of Irbid, Salt and Zaqqa. High ticket prices prevented many from attending, yet the Jerash South Theater was full for every show.

Many of those who attended the festival complained that the program did not cater to their tastes. Furthermore, visually, the festival was lacking; concert performers stood idly behind microphones accompanied by hidden musicians, while the atmosphere was more akin to a recording studio session than a live performance. Critics demanded more spectacular shows with more imagination and creativity.

The same, dull stance was adopted at the poetry readings, with a setting reminiscent of a congress hall. Poets sat around a long table equipped with water jugs, glasses and microphones, while the audience sat and fidgeted, struggling to peer past glittering spot lights and TV cameramen. In a TV and video age, the argument followed that the modern cultural consumer expects audio-visual harmony combined with excitement, dynamics and beauty.

Sadly, all of the artists seemed rigid and artistically unfamiliar with the tastes of the Jordanian audience, but who is to be blamed for repetitive shows and an inadequate understanding of the audience's values — the organizers, who failed to revise artistic standards, or the performers themselves?

Levels of quality varied greatly at the festival. There were brilliant works of art such as Douraid Lahham's play "The Happy Bird" and the Milham Barakat concert. Others were artistically inferior but were well received, such as the Julia Boutros concert and Lahham's "Rainmaker" play. There were also shows that were poorly attended but of good artistic quality, such as those of the Arab Music Institute and the University of Yarmouk and Ruh Al-Quds chorus.

The poetry offered this year was also a conglomerate of different artistic levels. In the opinion of local poet Youssef Abdul Aziz, "The Jerash festival offered little more than a repetition of the same names and low artistic quality."

Abu Khaled Batawi expressed disappointment at the absence of Palestinian poets from the Occupied Territories. "Jordan is our only window to the world," he said. "The only place where we can introduce ourselves and get to know other Arab artists. The Jerash Festival didn't give enough consideration to this fact."

A final aspect of the festival program was the participation of local groups, albeit rather meagre. Certain contributions, such as The Royal Cultural Center Ballet Group, were sad examples of how local institutions do not respect the art they are promoting, nor the festival itself.

Not all of the criticism need be negative, however. Positive support must be given to the local media, the newly-established press committee and the Jerash Daily bulletin, who worked hard at covering the festival's schedule.

And so the festival was much the same as in previous years. Although it can be expected to continue as an intellectual, cultural and artistic platform, it can only improve by raising standards and adapting them to the tastes of society. It must also continue to work at promoting and nurturing the various trends and movements in local culture.

Robert Adam: Master architect

Bicentenary of a Scottish genius

By Michael Leech
Special to The Star

MODERN ARCHITECTURE tends to raise hackles among the British, from the crisp commentaries of the defenders of an art form which is now in a very bad way. But whatever the views on modern buildings, those of earlier ages are rarely criticized — and old in particular esteem are the places and public buildings of that bright son of Scotland, Robert Adam, who died 200 years ago in 1792.

To mark the bicentenary there have been exhibitions, events and discussions of his work, especially in Scotland, and perhaps more importantly, this year the non-expert visitor to Britain can admire the many fine Adam buildings which are open to the public.

With his brother James he founded a family concern — but Robert, born in 1728, was the genius and to him the laurels are awarded. He built magnificent houses, was the most influential architect and designer of his day and established a style, much as did the Italian genius Palladio in an earlier century.

In 1754 Robert went to Italy to study architecture and archaeology, and stayed in and around Rome for three years, employing draughtsmen to draw the great classical ruins. Hericlanum and Pompeii had not long been discovered, and these long-buried cities provided rich rewards from nature monuments to fine details.

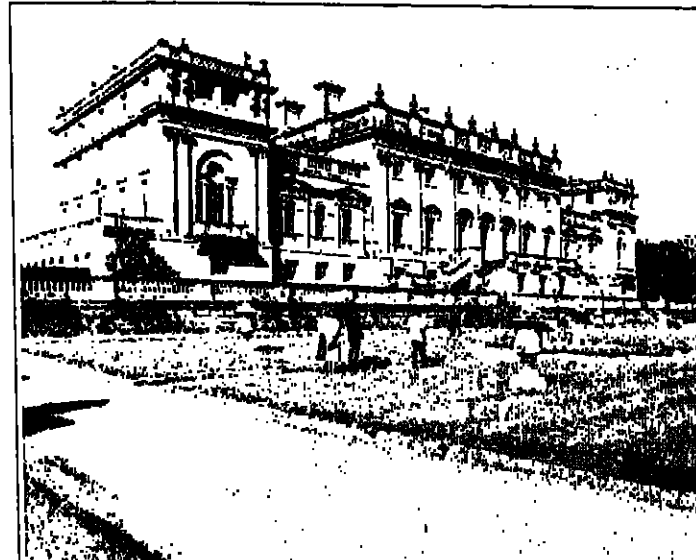
Adam's designs were not restricted to buildings — he also carried out many interior design schemes and provided fittings and furniture. One of the pleasures of visiting his buildings is that the interiors may also be his — sometimes even the chairs, tables and fire screens. Greece was not neglected in the brothers' classical schemes; they studied the four volumes of "The Antiquities of Athens" which appeared in the 1760s. For most of this decade, Robert was architect to King George III.

The visitor who enjoys style and grandeur will find plenty of Adam buildings to admire in Britain. They are mainly concentrated in certain areas — London and its surrounds, the Midlands, Yorkshire, and his native Scotland.

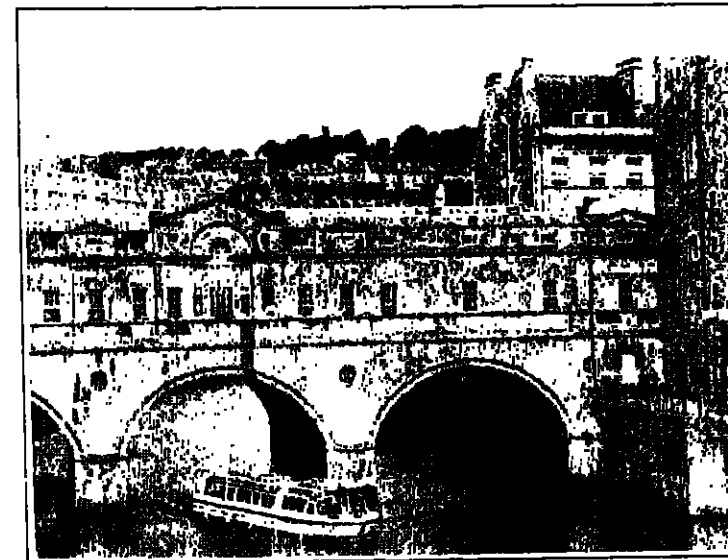
In central London, the grandest Adam building is Apsley House in Hyde Park Corner. It includes later work by Wyatt, undertaken when the house was the home of Wellington, "the Iron Duke", and is now in the care of the Victoria and Albert Museum. Unfortunately, it is closed to the public throughout the bicentennial year for major refurbishment.

In Whitehall, the handsome stone screen of the Old Admiralty, with its sculpted ships, is Adam's work, and between the Strand and the Thames, the brothers' Adelphi development was largely replaced by a massive 1930s block — but a few of their original houses can be seen. Adam Street has some of their work, and Robert himself lived at 2, Robert Street.

A few miles from the center of the capital, there are grander houses. On the edge of Richmond Heath to the north is a house with the interiors probably the setting for the great



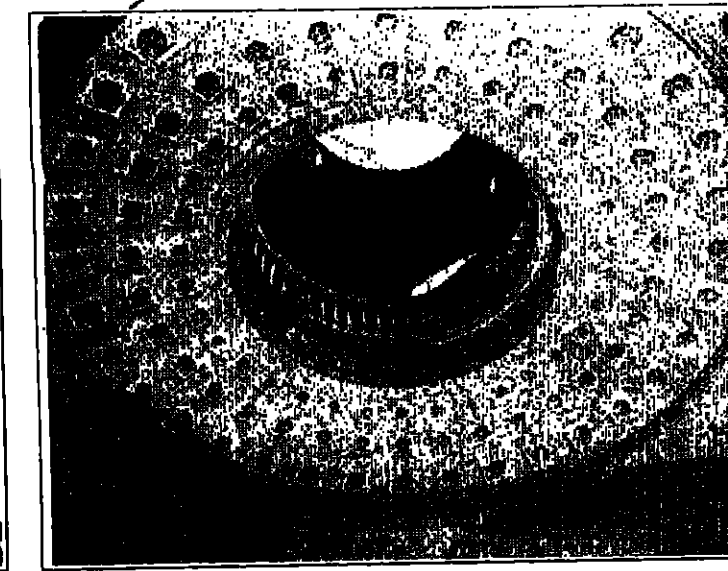
Harewood, one of Adam's Yorkshire houses



Adam's Pulteney Bridge, Bath



Adam staircase



Adam ceiling in the Marble Hall, Kenwood House

paintings of the Iveagh Bequest. To the west, 16th century Osterley Park was remodelled by Adam, and the decoration and furnishing of the State Rooms show his splendid neo-classical designs. Nearby, across the river from New Gardens, Syon House is another stately home with elegant Adam interiors.

His buildings are scattered around England. In Surrey, Hatchland Park near Guildford has the earliest known Adam interiors, and 200 miles south-west the large and imposing Saltram House near Plymouth has his saloon and dining room designs. The Duke of Northumberland employed Adam for almost 20 years at Alnwick Castle in the north-east and he also designed the gatehouse at Kimbolton Castle, Cambridgeshire.

Kedleston Hall near Derby is largely his work, and the palatial mansion has one of the architect's finest interiors. Yorkshire is rich in Adam buildings, from Harewood to Newby Hall and Nostell Priory — all with his interiors. He designed churches at Cuntun (Norfolk) and Binley in the West Midlands and Bath's charming Pulteney Bridge, flanked with small shops, is also his work.

Scotland's many Adam buildings include beautiful Mellerstain in the Borders, begun by William Adam in 1725 and completed by son Robert in 1778; the grandiose Hopetoun House near Edinburgh, another family affair which involved not only father and Robert, but also brother John and, overlooking Inverness Firth, Fort George which contains a military museum and was built under the brothers' instruction.

One of Robert's masterpieces is the majestic Culzean Castle on the Ayrshire coast, which has been in the care of the National Trust for Scotland since 1945 — its 560-acre grounds became Scotland's first country park in 1969. The Trust owns three buildings on the north side of Charlotte square, Edinburgh, perhaps Adam's finest urban architecture. You can visit No. 7, immaculately restored and furnished to depict 18th century town house life.

As well as Charlotte square, the Scottish capital is a center for Adam's work. Visitors to Edinburgh can admire the exterior of the General Register House in Princess Street, and the Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street. He was a student at the University of Edinburgh, and its Old College was built to his de-

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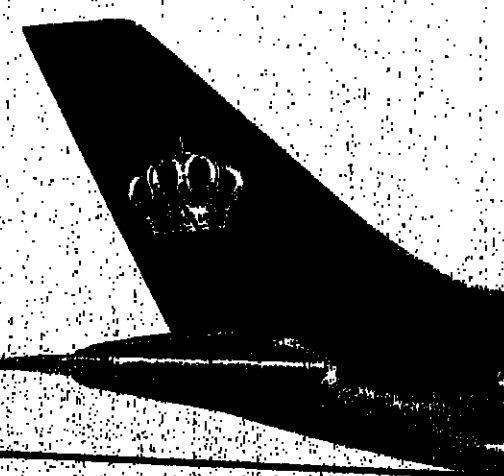
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Regional Business Report

KIO changes its investment strategy

THE Kuwait Investment Office is changing the mix of its investments having been left with an "unbalanced portfolio" after the crisis sale of around half its assets following the Gulf War.

According to a financier with a close knowledge of the KIO — which has between \$30 billion and \$35 billion under management, down from a peak twice as great before the Gulf War — the London-based body is also returning to a policy of becoming a more passive investor in companies.

In the 1980s, the KIO became known as an aggressive purchaser

of big strategic stakes in politically sensitive companies, such as Midland Bank. The fund has become reluctant to exceed the 3 per cent level of equity investment at which an interest in a quoted UK company must be disclosed, unless the investment is seen as an outstanding prospect.

The financier said the pressure on the KIO to remit funds for the rebuilding of Kuwait has eased. On the other hand, the fund does not expect to receive new injections of funds from the Gulf for at least a year.

The sell-off of investment in the past years is understood to have left the KIO with an inappropriate mix of assets. It is now turning its attention to "rebalancing" its remaining investments.

Large new investment funds will not be available to the KIO until Kuwait's oil production has returned to its pre-war level of 1.5 million barrels a day — a target the government is confident of reaching early next year.

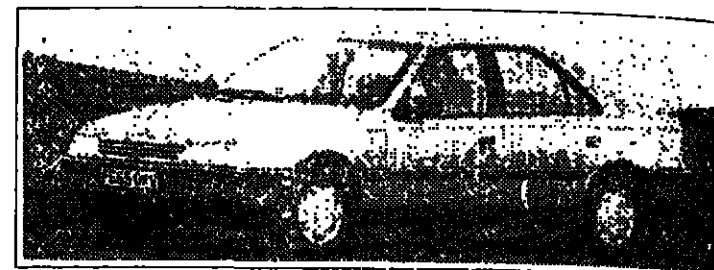
It is understood that Mr Ali Rashid Al Bader, the KIO's new president, will oversee a relatively cautious investment strategy and avoid the sort of high-profile investment manoeuvres it has occasionally undertaken in the past.

Current management is understood to be keen to avoid initiatives such as Ercros, the Spanish chemicals group in which the KIO holds a 39 per cent stake. The KIO is preparing to pump more money into Ercros to support the view that it is not about to extricate itself from Spain altogether.

Nor is it expected in the short term to offload large publicly disclosed equity interests such as its 9.9 per cent stake in BP.

Peugeot to start car assembly in Egypt

PEUGEOT, the French car maker, has signed an agreement



Peugeot 405: Now to be assembled in Egypt

to start assembly in Egypt — the fruit of 11 years of tortuous negotiations.

The group has set up a 51 per cent-owned joint venture with its Egyptian distributor, CDC Wajih Abaza, and with the local subsidiaries of two French banks to make up to 10,000 cars a year for an initial investment of FF10 million at an existing jeep plant near Cairo.

Peugeot is the latest car group to show interest in Egypt since the improvement in the country's credit-worthiness after last year's accord by the IMF and World Bank to forgive half its official debt.

This is also the latest step in Peugeot's campaign to expand production in developing mar-

kets, after a similar accord in Poland in the spring, and the start-up of production of medium-sized 405 saloons in Argentina in May.

The Egyptian venture will also make 405s, with production due to start later next year, at an initial annual output of 1,500 cars, with full production in four years. The plant, owned by Arab American Vehicles, a joint venture between Chrysler and a consortium of Arab investors, currently makes jeeps for the Egyptian army.

Peugeot plans to include 20 per cent of locally made components in the first year, building up to 30 per cent in year two. To help build up local content, Peugeot is encouraging French component makers such as Valco to strike co-operation accords with Egyptian suppliers.

Peugeot's competitors include General Motors, which makes commercial vehicles in Egypt and recently signed an accord to make medium-sized cars. Citroen is negotiating for a local assembly accord, as are Suzuki of Japan and Hyundai of South Korea.

Egypt has recently given the go-ahead for other car-making joint ventures. General Motors Egypt, which already builds light trucks, is to produce passenger cars beginning next year. Egypt Suzuki will assemble mini-vans and trucks. A group of Egyptian businessmen plans to build Russian Aleko passenger cars.

Iranian banks delay payments

IRANIAN banks, which usually have an exemplary payment record, have been delaying payments on letters of credit for the past three weeks.

The delays come at a bad time for Iran, as the UK Export Credits Guarantee Department continues negotiations with the Iranian government aimed at establishing medium-term cover for Iran.

The delays result from the loosening of controls by the Bank Markazi, the central bank, which wants to remove itself from the commercial arena. Bank Markazi used to open all letters of credit but it has now transferred this to commercial banks.

Some of the Iranian banks have taken out interbank loans to ease the problem and Bank Markazi is said to have injected \$400 million into the banking system about 10 days ago.

The banks have also come under pressure because Bank Markazi restricted the supply of hard currency in mid-May, leaving the banks to settle outstanding debt by going to the open market. The shortage of foreign exchange stems in part from over-estimates of oil income. The price of oil was expected to remain high after the Gulf War. This year for example, Iran may find itself earning only \$14 billion in oil revenues instead of an estimated \$16.6 billion.

Down payments on projects drawn up in the five-year development plan have increased the strain on resources.

Let the Barcelona games begin!

Pierre de Coubertin, the man who started it all, would be amazed.

Bigger, brasher and costlier than ever, the greatest show on earth has opened in Barcelona with 15,600 athletes and officials from a record 172 eligible nations in the Games of the 25th Olympiad.

"Everything is in place," said Pasqual Maragall, mayor of Barcelona and president of the Olympic organizing committee already a week before the opening ceremony, such was his confidence in the efficiency of this organization of the Games.

It is all a far cry from 1896, when de Coubertin, a French baron, revived the Olympics of ancient Greece.

Then, just 311 athletes — all men — from 13 nations gathered in Athens for the first modern Games, funded by the sale of souvenir stamps and medals.

The world has come a long way too since 1988 when the Soviet Union and East Germany dominated the medals table at the Seoul Olympics.

In their place are the Commonwealth of Independent States and Georgia, former Soviet republics competing as one for the first and last time, and the first unified German team for 28 years.

Back too are South Africa — returning to the Olympic fold after 32 years as pariahs over apartheid — the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and Cuba, Caribbean stayaways since 1980.

The Barcelona Games are the first since Munich in 1972 to be spared a political boycott.

Even tiny Albania, once Europe's most isolated country, was there when an archer let loose a burning arrow to light the Olympic flame.

In Barcelona, the Games mean we have seen a 70-year-long dream come true," said Maragall, referring to the first time the capital of Spain's staunchly nationalistic Catalonia region bid for the Games in 1920.

He calls the relationship between Barcelona and the Olympics a "love affair," no suitor has availed so much on the object of its desire.



The US basketball squad (from left): Charles Barkley, David Robinson, John Stockton, Karl Malone, Michael Jordan, Chris Mullin, Patrick Ewing, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson and Scottie Pippen. Not pictured are Clyde Drexler and Christian Laettner.

Superstars at the Olympics

The USA 'Dream Team'

Forget it! No one can beat the USA "Dream Team".

Forget that the 11 NBA superstars aren't familiar with each other. Forget their unfamiliarity with international rules. Forget that they haven't faced zone defenses. Forget that the US hasn't won an international competition since 1984.

Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Charles Barkley, Karl Malone, David Robinson, Patrick Ewing, Clyde Drexler, Scottie Pippen, Chris Mullin.

Slosh some of the names around your brain for a few seconds and then let them sink in. There's just no way anybody can beat them.

"We have so many weapons and it's very difficult for teams to cover all our weapons," coach Chuck Daly said.

As if the deck wasn't already stacked in the Americans' favor, the foreign powers whose victories over college players led USA Basketball to turn to the NBA are not so powerful any more.

The political upheaval in Eastern Europe has had the effect of a giant machete chopping great basketball teams into small pieces.

The outstanding Yugoslav team that won the 1990 world championship doesn't exist. The

remnants of that team wound up in Slovenia and Croatia, although it's still a medal threat

all, they are the best "We taught the Europeans how to play basketball, but I don't think anyone can really run with this US team," Daly said.



"I was watching when Russia beat our guys and they lifted the coach up like they had beaten America's best," Malone said. "I have an attitude about it now, and it's the same down the line."

"We're here to regain the pride and dignity of US basketball and kill these guys if we can," Jordan said. "We want people to remember that this is where the game was created."

Critics of having the NBA players in the Olympics have also questioned whether the ex-

pected blowouts will cross the boundaries of fairness.

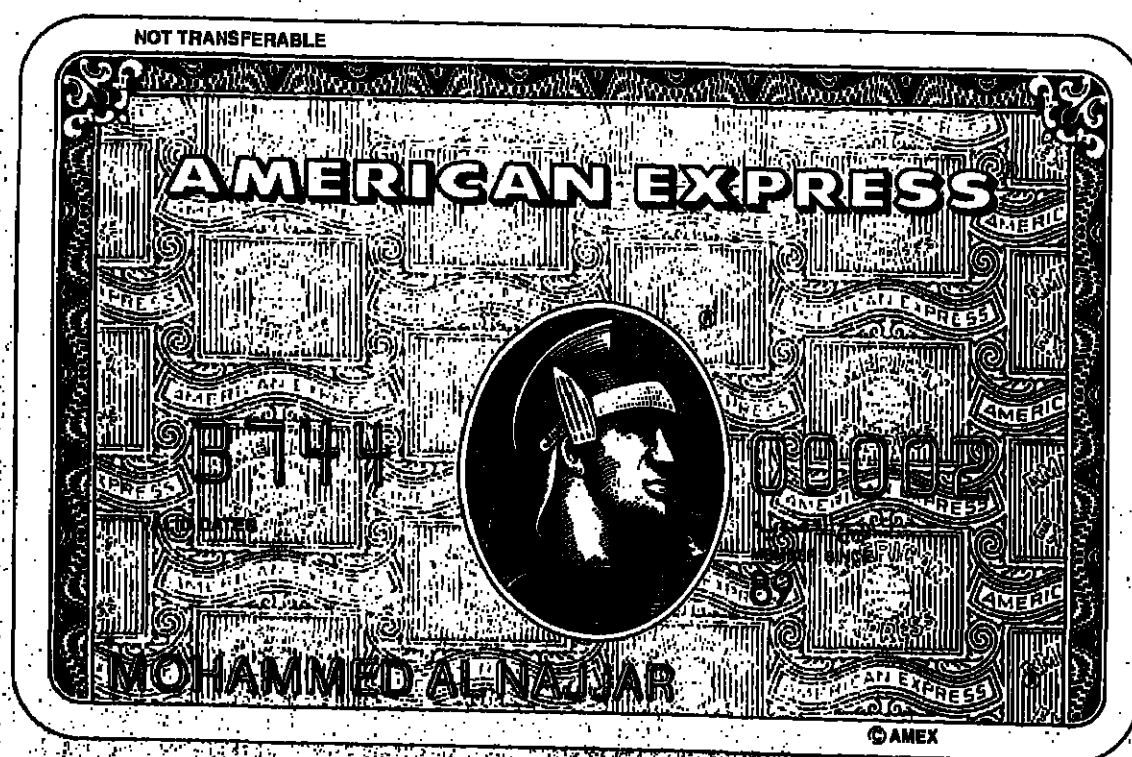
When international competition was weaker, the 1956 American Olympic team won by an average of 53.5 points, a standard the Dream Team met in the Tournament of the Americans.

"A lot of people are concerned with our margins of victory," Daly said. "But I think in the long run, seeing this team will inspire more kids' interest in basketball around the world."

"We don't believe we have too much talent on this team," Johnson said. "It's what we do. Europeans are not embarrassed to bring over an all-star team in soccer. That's their game, just like this is our game."

"It's so obvious the US is going to win that they should just give them the gold medal right now," Croatian star Dino said.

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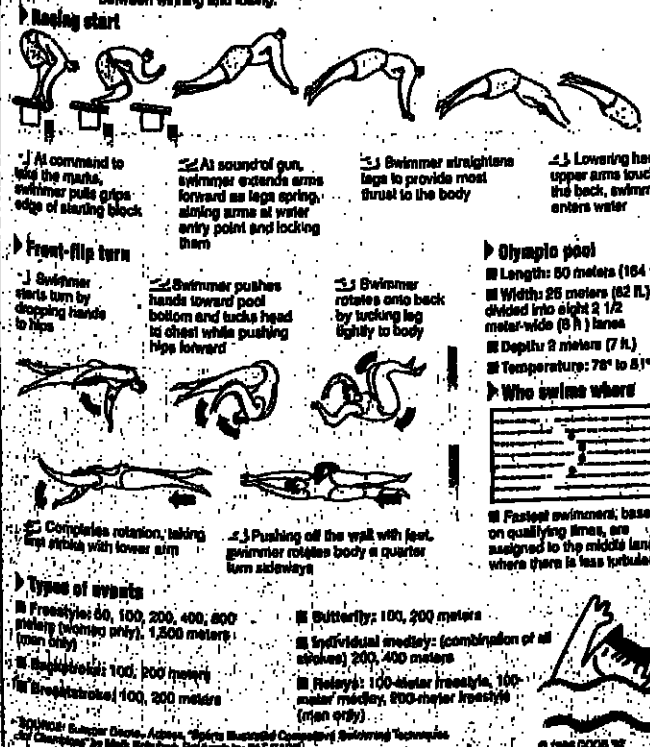
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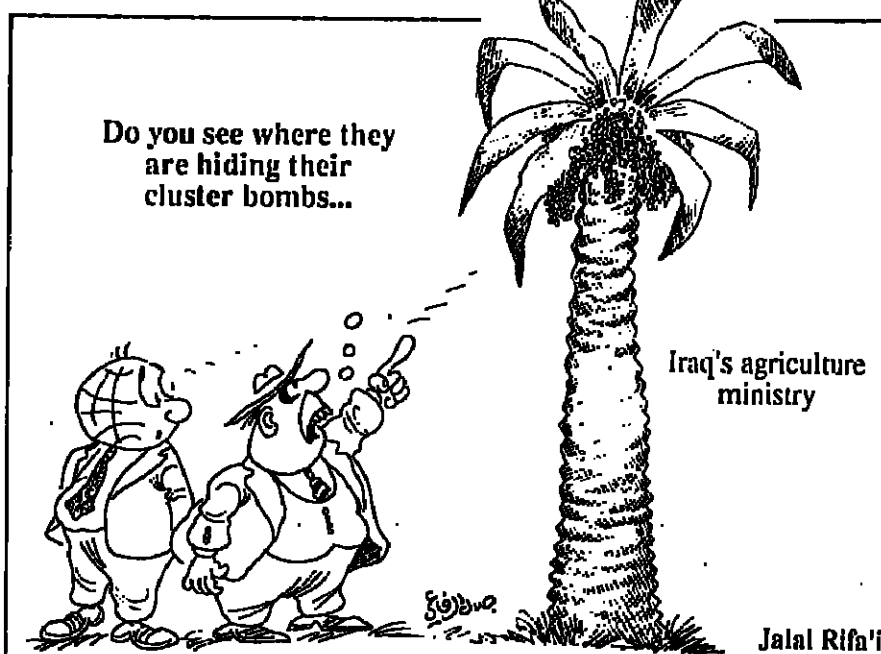
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Our Say....

Punishing the Iraqis

THE STAND-OFF between the United Nations and Iraq over the latter's refusal to allow a UN inspection team to enter the agriculture ministry in Baghdad has ended peacefully. A compromise has defused the crisis and the threat of yet another military strike by the United States and its Gulf War allies against Iraq has been postponed — for the time being at least. This incident coincided with a decision last week by the UN Sanctions Committee in the Security Council to maintain its economic siege of Iraq. The reasons for this extension were the same as before; mainly Iraq's refusal to abide by all pertinent UN resolutions regarding its arsenal of non-conventional weapons, its refusal to participate in a committee to redraw its borders with Kuwait and its rejection of proposals to sell its oil under strict conditions.

While both parties claimed victory over the resolution of the ministry of agriculture stand-off, the Iraqi people were definitely the only losers as a result of the verdict of the Sanctions Committee to keep the sanctions on Iraq. In fact, one can safely say that the sanctions will continue so long as President Saddam Hussein remains in power. While this is not the declared objective of the United Nations, it certainly is the goal of the one country that controls it.

The United States refuses to re-negotiate a better and more just deal for the Iraqi people while its old scores with President Saddam remain unsettled. In the last few days, we have seen a euphoric President Bush preparing to campaign for his re-election bringing the Gulf War and Saddam Hussein back into the center stage of American politics. President Bush, whose domestic performance has become a major liability in the polls, is using the Iraq-busting technique to boost his popularity at the expense of innocent Iraqis.

This approach frightens us. It is inconceivable to us to understand how, two years after the sanctions were first slammed against Iraq, the Bush administration can still believe it can help bring the regime of Saddam Hussein down. So far the only victims of this sad affair have been the children of Iraq and those who have nothing left to live or die for.

What astounds us even more is the fact that the United States continues to use the United Nations to destroy a nation of 18 million, a member of the UN and a country that has tremendous cultural, economic and social value in this region. The cost on the United Nations has been phenomenal in terms of the erosion of its credibility and the loss of its impartiality.

The UN is becoming an instrument of US policies, its secretary general a mere clerk in the US-State Department and its members silent spectators in an endless farce.

Further more, the US is making little effort to justify its banding of its own rules. While it uses the UN and international law to ostracize and punish Iraq, it decides to keep Israel away from the jurisdiction of the Security Council and its resolutions.

It is time to ease up the sanctions and allow the Iraqi people to rebuild their war-ravaged country. Bush's personal duel with Saddam can continue without dragging the Iraqi people into the middle. No legal or humanitarian law can justify starving a nation or denying its citizens the right to live with dignity. If Saddam is accused of expropriating the human rights of his people, then President Bush will be viewed by history as the man who expropriated the lives of thousands of innocent Iraqis. ■

General visions lost in a sea of coups

CHILE UNDER PINOCHET: A Nation of Enemies. Pamela Constable & Arturo Valenzuela. Norton £17.95.

By Colin Harding

IT WILL be some time before the ghosts of Chile's recent, traumatic past are finally laid to rest. It is two years since General Pinochet, after 17 years in power, reluctantly handed over the presidential sash to his civilian successor, but he continues to brood on as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, nursing a heart condition and badly bruised feelings.

There are many other unsavory relics: Michael Townley, an American-born, DINA, and convicted murderer of an exiled Chilean politician in Washington 16 years ago, now faces charges in an Italian court for the attempted assassination of another leading exile in Rome in 1975.

Unlike other Latin American countries that lived through "dirty wars" against subversion in the Seventies and Eighties, Chile's present government has declined to solve the problem of how to bring the torturers and kidnappers to book and how to compensate the relatives of their victims.

Yet Chile is treading the dangerous middle ground between vengeance and impunity with considerable skill and even success: President Patricio Aylwin is about to set up a National Organization of Reparation and Reconciliation to deal with many human rights cases still pending from the long night of the military dictatorship.

As this powerful and persuasive book reminds us, the Chilean tragedy that began with the military overthrow of President Salvador Allende's left-wing government on 11 September, 1973, captured the imagination and sympathy of a whole generation. The success of the Ariel Dorfman play *Death and the Maiden*, which played to packed houses all over the world, suggests the Chilean experience has lost none of its universal relevance.

Pamela Constable and Arturo Valenzuela have produced a highly readable book that should both satisfy specialists and appeal to the mythical general reader. In a fruitful collaboration between an American journalist and a Chilean academic, they describe the decline of a civilized society into a reign of terror, and its extraordinary re-emergence as a mature and confident democracy.

Chile always prided itself on being different from the rest of Latin America; an island of democratic politics and the rule of law in a turbulent sea of coups and tyranny, with a large and cultivated middle class that enjoyed being described as the "English of Latin America."

It was a rigidly stratified society, but the system worked well enough as long as everybody played by the rules. By the early Seventies, after a decade of political ferment and growing polarization, it all proved too much: Chile had become a "nation of enemies."

Enter Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, who was appointed commander of the army by President Allende only a few weeks before the coup. He was regarded as an apolitical, professional officer, plodding rather than brilliant and, above all, reliable.

It proved to be a costly error of judgement. The Chilean military had traditionally remained aloof from politics, but after General Pinochet put himself at the head of a conspiracy that he only appears to



have discovered at the last moment, he showed himself, to be an anti-Communist warrior of unparalleled ferocity.

He resolved to end the "drunken binge of ideas" of the Allende regime and finish off the "diabolical Marxists" once and for all. Chile's civilized veneer fell away and cultivated people, brain washed by hatred, found themselves condoning or preferring to remain unaware of, terrible things that were done in the name of "Western values."

Constable and Valenzuela look at the impact of all this on each element of society in turn, from the military and their young civilian technocrats to the victims of the no-holds-barred, free-market revolution they led.

Their book is mercifully free of polemical intent and, while pulling no punches about the sinister underpinnings of the Pinochet dictatorship, it makes the widespread fear engendered by the unrestrained ideological ferment and Weimar-style inflation of the Allende years comprehensible, and shows why about 40 per cent of the electorate still voted for Pinochet in the 1988 referendum.

Not the least of the authors' achievements is a full-length portrait of Pinochet, who emerges as a compelled, cunning and ultimately almost tragic figure, pelted with rotten tomatoes on the day he handed over power, bewildered by the ingratitude of a people he had served so long and, by his own lights so selfishly.

Perhaps the general's most durable legacy will turn out to be the construction of an economic model that his civilian successors have left virtually intact. Chile has long been a favourite of the international financial community, since the days in the mid-Seventies when the "Chicago Boys" turned the country into a laboratory for radical free-market experiments.

Pinochet, of course, had set his sights higher than this. He wanted to make history, to turn Chile into a developed country in a generation, while sweeping away the "politicizing, sectarianism and demagoguery" of the corrupt parties and ideologies who had almost succeeded in wrecking his beloved country. Instead, he had to suffer the humiliation of seeing the Christian Democrats, radicals and socialists whom he had banished to outer darkness return to power and start asking impertinent and unwelcome questions about his human rights record.

The great survivor, who saw off all his military rivals, finally lost out to the despotic policies, who have shown laudable maturity in finally overcoming their differences and pulling Chile back from the abysses. ■

Keeping Boris on the MidEast peace bandwagon

By Sajid Rizvi
Special to The Star

LONDON — It's little less than a shock to the system of what used to be the towering global presence of Soviet diplomacy that, almost overnight in historical terms, its scope and size has been whittled down to the bare ground by the onrush of events.

But scale and potential are a matter of perception. The principal successors to the USSR, still ensconced in the Kremlin, are the selfsame wheeler-dealers who trotted the earth to project Moscow's will on friends and foes alike. What's gone — and that remains important — is the strategic nuclear leverage.

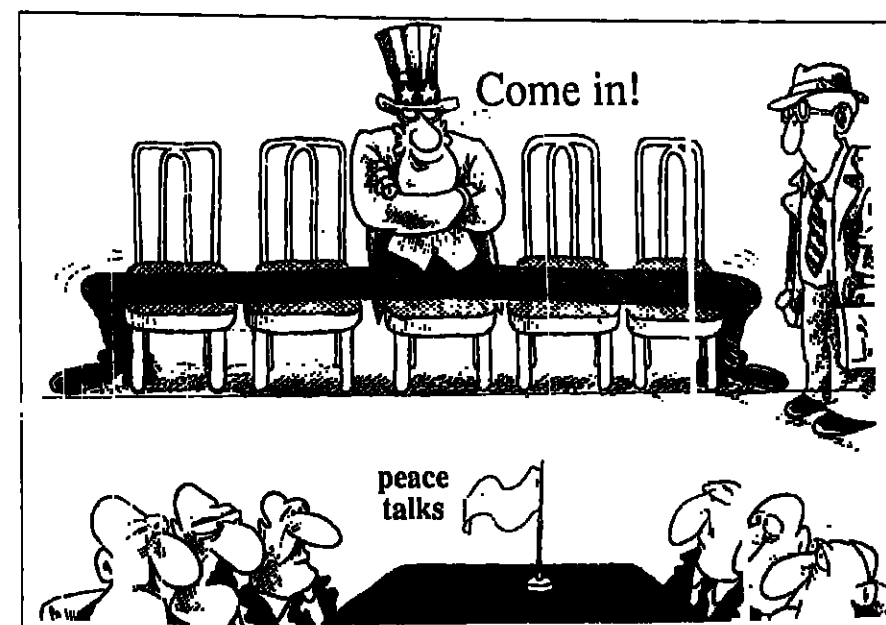
The loss of destructive nuclear capability comparable to that of the United States need not deprive Russia, or its leader Boris Yeltsin, of constructive potential.

Nowhere was the former Soviet Union more intensively and delicately involved in international diplomacy than in the Middle East. It is partly to be credited for putting Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the Middle Eastern agenda.

The Soviet hunger for influence helped trigger the arms race, but other major powers with similar motives fuelled it. Moscow gave platform to causes, not necessarily linked to its discredited ideology of communism, where such opportunities were not available. The USSR offered an alternative view which was not always justified.

Why then should its heirs, Russia or the Commonwealth of Independent States at large, have to suffer ignominy when they espouse greater openness and a government with a human face? The case for a post-USSR role for Moscow is explored by Professor Galia Golan, director of the Mayrock Centre for Soviet and East European Research at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem and visiting professor at the University of Irvine, California.

"Politically," she says in her study, Mos-



cow and the Middle East, for the Royal Institute for International Affairs, "it has already become clear that the interest and role of the former Soviet Union in the Middle East is marginal.

"Indistinguishable from the United States in its policies, weakened and preoccupied with internal strife, Moscow, even before the break-up of the Union, had virtually ceased to be a player in the Middle East arena in any but a purely symbolic way."

Nevertheless, she points out that the United States has continued to grant Russia a certain status, relating to it as if it still were a world power. Yeltsin's response to that elevated status remains uncertain, partly because of his preoccupation with domestic problems. But there are strong arguments for a Russian/CIS role in the Middle East.

To start with, Russia still offers an alternative viewpoint, albeit within the US

sphere of influence. Having built a diplomatic bridge with Israel, Russia is better disposed than the USSR ever was to mediating a Palestinian-Israeli solution.

Moreover, like Britain and other US allies, Russia should be capable of carrying on and building political and economic relationships on both sides of the Palestinian-Israeli dispute independent of its pro-US stance.

Professor Golan explains the complex processes in the evolution of Soviet-American and then Russian-American ties in the aftermath of the Gulf war. Former leader Mikhail Gorbachev's behavior in the Gulf crisis created a precedent: It opened the way for direct Soviet cooperation with the United States.

Moscow was able to argue that such collaboration made sense. The sources of regional instability had to be removed if the post-Cold War order had to be preserved. But its policy shift had a price. "At the regional level," says Golan, "the crisis had a mixed impact on Soviet relations with the Middle East states and peoples."

Support for the anti-Iraq coalition led by the United States and comprising conservative Arab states brought Moscow many dividends. It was able at last to begin to mend fences with Egypt and — more important — to open diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi acknowledgement of the Soviet role in the coalition boosted Moscow's standing in the Gulf region and with it trade and generous credits from the emirates. By the same token, Moscow was able to gain the initiative in its moves to patch up relations with Tehran. "On the whole," says Golan, "the warming of Soviet relations with Iran and with the other Gulf states was perceived in Moscow as a major achievement, with a good deal of potential for the sagging Soviet economy."

All that was before the breakup of the Soviet Union. The CIS replaced the USSR in December 1991 and was immediately plunged into an economic crisis. Foreign diplomacy has not been high on the CIS agenda, but outside states have viewed its emergence and disappearance of the USSR rather differently.

Contacts between the Middle Eastern and Central Asian states have intensified and, in recent months, rivalry between Iran and Turkey on the one hand and Iran and the Arab states on the other has been a major factor in Central Asia's dealings abroad. This is an area where Russia may yet play a moderating role. ■

Moscow and the Middle East: New Thinking on Regional Conflict. By Galia Golan. Published by Pinter Publishers. £8.95, 185567-009-7.

Academic File.

Sajid Rizvi is the managing editor of Academic File.

Sad journals of an Israeli soldier

JUDEAN JOURNAL. by Jacques Pinto. London, Quartet. £10.95.

By Dan Leon

THIS TRANSLATION from the French of an Israeli reservist's diary of service in the Occupied Territories was described in the French press as "sensational" and "uncompromising." A professional journalist in Israel and in France, Jacques Pinto sees the Israeli army in the (occupied) territories "driven further into a corner every day, forced to operate in a situation of anarchy, given the task of waging against civilians — a war it knows it will lose, caught in the crossfire between fanatics who don't give a damn for democracy, leftists who insult it in the name of the same democracy, a public deaf to the violence erupting beneath its windows, and a government which is incapable of taking a clear stand. The army's there, but how much longer can it hold out?"

How long indeed? The journal dates back to August 1988 when the *Intifada* (which broke out in December 1987) was in its first year. It may have been sensational when it first appeared abroad, but to Israelis familiar with it through personal experience or the Hebrew media, after five years, the *Intifada* is anything but sensational.

That is the problem with a journal like this, in spite of its authenticity and honesty. When Pinto asked if the army could hold out, it can be assumed he did not anticipate that, almost four years later, no one would dare to hazard when the *Intifada* will end.

All those who saw the *Intifada* as a passing episode now know that it is the opposite. It is a struggle with a persistent enemy, or against the agony of the occupation, according to one's evaluation. With all its problem of timing, it is remarkable how little has actually changed in the four years since this journal was written.

A young captain's opinion still persists that "the only language the Arabs understand is force" and "it's a question of mentality...." And Pinto's fear has not been dispelled that the law gives you "squalid power over these thousands of men, women and children, the right to violate their bodies and their minds. And you either loathe yourself or feel intoxicated by your own impotence."

The general commanding all troops in the occupied territories told his officers: "We're back in the Stone Age. The army has an impossible mission to accomplish, and it must accomplish it at all costs."

We follow patrols by day and night in silent towns and remote villages; the throwing of Molotov cocktails and stones by boys; the routine of guarding prisoners rounding up suspects, removing PLO flags, dealing with wretched collaborators. Pinto is convinced that "whatever names we choose to call them (locals, trouble-makers, laborers, terrorists, dogs), we can't change the fact that these men have realized that they are a nation."

He sees Israeli reservists passing, during their 40 days of service, through three stages: adaptation, normalization, and erosion. The fear, the frustration and the anger of the soldiers impel them to cross "the threshold of tolerance, tending to give animal instincts full rein." Judging from some recent reports from the occupied territories, the system may have changed, but not the problems.

At one stage, Pinto notes that "in a few days, the opening shots will be fired in the election campaign... with no holds barred."

And the army will be tossed about even more violently in the whirlwind... the most important thing is to preserve at all costs some humanity and clear-headedness, in so far as they still exist in the country."

The journal may be four years old but it seems "there is little new under the sun" because the reference is to the elections to the 12th, not the 13th, Knesset. ■

The Star
Jordan's political, economic
and cultural weekly

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Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Mission impossible

Paris-Pékin en deux CV!

Après s'être remis d'une panne à Pétra, Pépito, Français d'origine espagnole, a repris la route de la soie. Au total, 18.000 kilomètres d'une course solitaire dépourvue de tout chronomètre

UNE DEUX chevaux fait des bruits bizarres aux alentours de Pétra. A son bord, Pépito cède à la panique. Son rêve de 20 ans, suivre la route de la soie en solitaire est-il en train de s'écrouler? Pas le moins du monde. Le moteur ronronne, tourne tant bien que mal. La deux CV, qu'il a payée 3.000 francs à la "casse" de Fontenay-sous-Bois ne le lâchera pas. "C'est une voiture sympa, fiable et solide", affirme Pépito, Jaime Frances de son vrai nom. Il ajoute: "Avec un autre modèle, la même panne m'aurait empêché de bouger. La deux CV m'a permis de revenir jusqu'à Amman".

18.000 kilomètres

Une fois dans la capitale jordanienne, Pépito décide de "jouer la prudence". Il se fait livrer un moteur tout neuf, par l'intermédiaire d'Europe Assistance. Parti tout seul, à l'aventure et sans pièce de rechange, le périple de Pépito semble quelque peu hasardeux. Ça passera ou ça casse. Jusqu'à la chance lui sourit.

Amman et la Jordanie ne représentent qu'une petite étape de ce rêve fou: traverser une dizaine de pays pour un long voyage d'environ 18.000 kilomètres. Pépito est parti le 26 juin dernier de Fontenay-sous-Bois, dans la banlieue parisienne. Les étapes: l'Italie, la Grèce, la Turquie, la Syrie, la Jordanie, la Syrie à nouveau, l'Iran, le Pakistan et enfin la Chine. Un voyage à légèreté comotante "politique": "Je suis parti de la place de l'Anité entre les peuples et je me rends place Tian An Men", précise-t-il. La deux CV a seulement 1.500 kilomètres au compteur. Les deux tiers du voyage restent encore à parcourir. De quoi pousser l'engrais dans la tombe.

Comptez de nombreux dans cette course vers le soleil levant? Deux mois, la voiture, elle est

ma seule complice", répond Pépito. Ce chauffeur de la municipalité de Fontenay-sous-Bois est un parfait anonyme. Son esprit est "loin des chronomètres et des étapes traditionnelles". Pépito veut simplement emboîter les pas d'André Citroën, faire sa "croisière jaune" à lui. Pendant deux longues années, il s'est préparé à cette aventure. C'était le moment où jamais: "J'ai 45 ans et les jambes lourdes, j'ai aussi peur de devenir trop sage". "L'année de l'Europe" sera aussi celle de Pépito. S'il atteint son objectif.

Ce voyage en solitaire est en fait la concrétisation d'un travail de groupe. Toute une "équipe de copains" s'est mobilisée pour que Pépito réalise son rêve. "Je suis la personne qui signe le tableau, ce sont eux qui m'ont aidé à tout préparer. Je ne vais donc pas prendre la gloire", (Sic) Côté total de l'aventure: 130.000

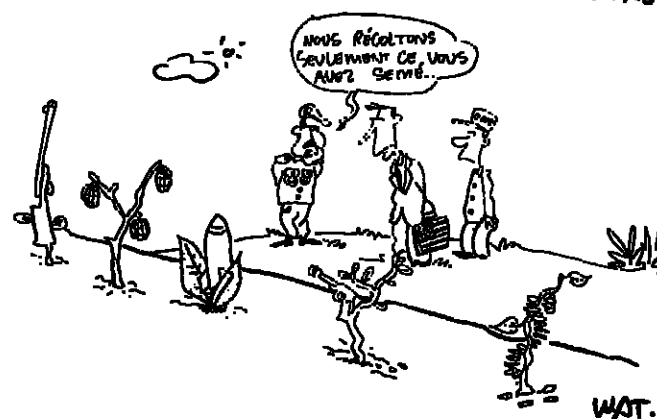
francs. Evidemment, les 7.000 francs mensuels du chauffeur n'ont pas suffi pour boucler le budget. Pépito a reçu le soutien financier de sa mairie mais aussi l'appui d'un certain nombre de privés. "Je ne fais pas de différence entre GTIE, une société d'électricité de Montrouil qui m'a donné pas mal d'argent et d'autres qui ne m'ont fait parvenir que 50 F" affirme Pépito. Par ailleurs, 800 pins vendus ont rapporté près de 15.000 F. Un atelier de sérigraphie a fabriqué une centaine de tee-shirts qui arborent le logo de la "croisière jaune de Pépito". Il faut également compter avec les dons. Certains ont dépassé les espérances du coureur solitaire. "J'exprime toute ma sympathie à M. Fouquet, qui a donné mon projet, et qui m'a envoyé un don de 10.000 F".

Dans le parking de la busseville, cet engin brinquebalant et

criblé d'autocollants attire l'attention. Pourtant, ce dimanche matin, Pépito ne retrouve plus son moyen de locomotion. Sa raison de vivre. Son cœur se met à battre. Il panique. "Ne vous inquiétez pas, vous devez vous tromper d'étape" lance un passant. Une fois la deux CV retrouvée, direction l'aéroport pour aller récupérer le nouveau moteur. Après avoir réparé, Pépito a quitté la Jordanie avec l'espoir d'arriver fin août sur la place Tian An Men. Sa femme doit venir le rejoindre à Pékin pour une deuxième lune de miel et quelques jours de vacances. Mais le rêve peut se briser d'une minute à l'autre. Pépito laisse transparenter un zeste de superstition: "Je suis en train de le réaliser, mais pour le moment, je ne préfère pas parler du lendemain".

F.M.

LE MINISTRE DE L'AGRICULTURE EN LIGNE DE MIÈRE



Télex... Jordanie

PREUVES - Les Etats arabes attendent des preuves de la bonne volonté israélienne lors du prochain round des pourparlers de paix. "S'ils clament qu'ils sont dans la bonne voie à propos du processus, ils doivent nous le montrer à l'intérieur des salles de négociations", a affirmé Fayez Tarawneh, délégué jordanien. "Nous voulons des preuves de la part des Israéliens qu'ils vont appliquer les termes de référence de ce processus de paix et qu'ils sont sincères dans la recherche d'une solution..." a déclaré Haider Abdel Shafi, chef négociateur palestinien.

ABOU JABER - Après le meeting de Damas, le ministre des Affaires étrangères jordanien appelle les Arabes à unifier leur position. Dans une interview au journal syrien Tishreen, Abou Jaber a déclaré que la communauté internationale devait éviter les "doubles standards dans ses relations avec la région". "Il n'est pas acceptable, pour n'importe quel Etat, qu'il soit petit ou grand, de garder le droit de violer la légitimité internationale et de rester sourd devant ses résolutions, comme c'est le cas dans le conflit israélo-arabe" a-t-il ajouté.

CORRUPTION - Faut-il incriminer l'ex-premier ministre Zaid Rifai et les ex-ministres des Travaux publics et des Finances? Un débat houleux sur le sujet a opposé lundi les députés jordanien. Ces trois ex-représentants de l'Etat sont accusés de mauvaise gestion des fonds publics dans la construction d'une autoroute de plusieurs millions de dollars. La commission d'enquête de la Chambre basse a recommandé dans un rapport l'inculpation des trois officiels par une cour spéciale.

APPEL - "L'Association française d'aide et de soutien à l'enfance handicapée" lance un appel à la Jordanie. Objectif: recueillir le plus grand nombre possible de timbres et de pins. Adresse: c/o Mr Amar, I.L. Boite Postale 9, 13.234 Marseille Cedex 4.

Regards de Jordanie

En attendant les guichets de change

Le Parlement a voté leur réouverture, mais celle-ci n'est pas encore effective. Samir Khader, journaliste jordanien, consacre sa page mensuelle au "guichet de change", véritable phénomène de société

Par Samir Khader

IL EST, DIT-ON, dangereux de vivre au dessus de ses moyens. Les individus, les entreprises et même les Etats ont maintes occasions de le constater. Au cours des années 80, les Jordaniens avaient pris goût aux charmes des produits importés. La force du dinar le leur permettait. Ils avaient aussi pris l'habitude de consommer librement. Heureux Jordaniens qui pouvaient alors s'offrir les "derniers cris", des leurs lancements sur les marchés. Une politique monétaire libérale, un peu trop selon certains observateurs, leur facilitait la tâche. A cela, s'ajoutait un climat de paix sociale et de stabilité politique qui faisait du pays l'oasis d'une région, d'un océan d'incertitude et de tension.

Mais derrière cette façade, les premiers symptômes de futurs bouleversements commençaient déjà à se faire sentir. Des bouleversements qui mettront un terme à des années de mauvaises habitudes, du moins sur le plan économique. L'accumulation de plusieurs facteurs a contribué à ce phénomène: hausse de l'aide arabe, dépenses publiques très importantes, endettement devenu insupportable pour les caisses de l'Etat.

Crise ouverte

La crise est donc ouverte. Dès l'automne 1988, l'Etat entérine officiellement la dévaluation du fait du dinar: elle est de l'ordre de 50%. Le pays se voit contraint d'entrer dans une période de changements radicaux, plus rapides et plus importants que prévus. La spéculation sur le dinar et la fuite des capitaux vers l'étranger poussent le gouvernement à décréter la fermeture temporaire des "guichets de change". Seules les banques sont désormais autorisées à faire le "commerce des devises".

Un plafond est fixé pour chaque individu. La dévaluation du dinar est suivie par une fièvre inflationniste. Cette situation fait de la fortune de quelques-uns et les désespère des autres. La chute du dinar n'a entraîné ni catastrophes en chaîne, ni grandes faillites, ni krach bancaire. Toutefois, la simple idée de ne plus pouvoir changer sa voiture, de ne plus pouvoir s'offrir des vacances en Europe, ou encore de payer les frais d'études de ses enfants à l'étranger hantent les rêves de beaucoup de Jordaniens. Pour ce faire, il fallait acheter des devises. C'était désormais impossible. Les "guichets de change" venaient d'être classés hors-la-loi.

Dopés lors, c'est le système d'achat prévus. Au lieu de se rendre dans une petite boutique du centre-ville pour changer de la monnaie, on le fait maintenant sur le

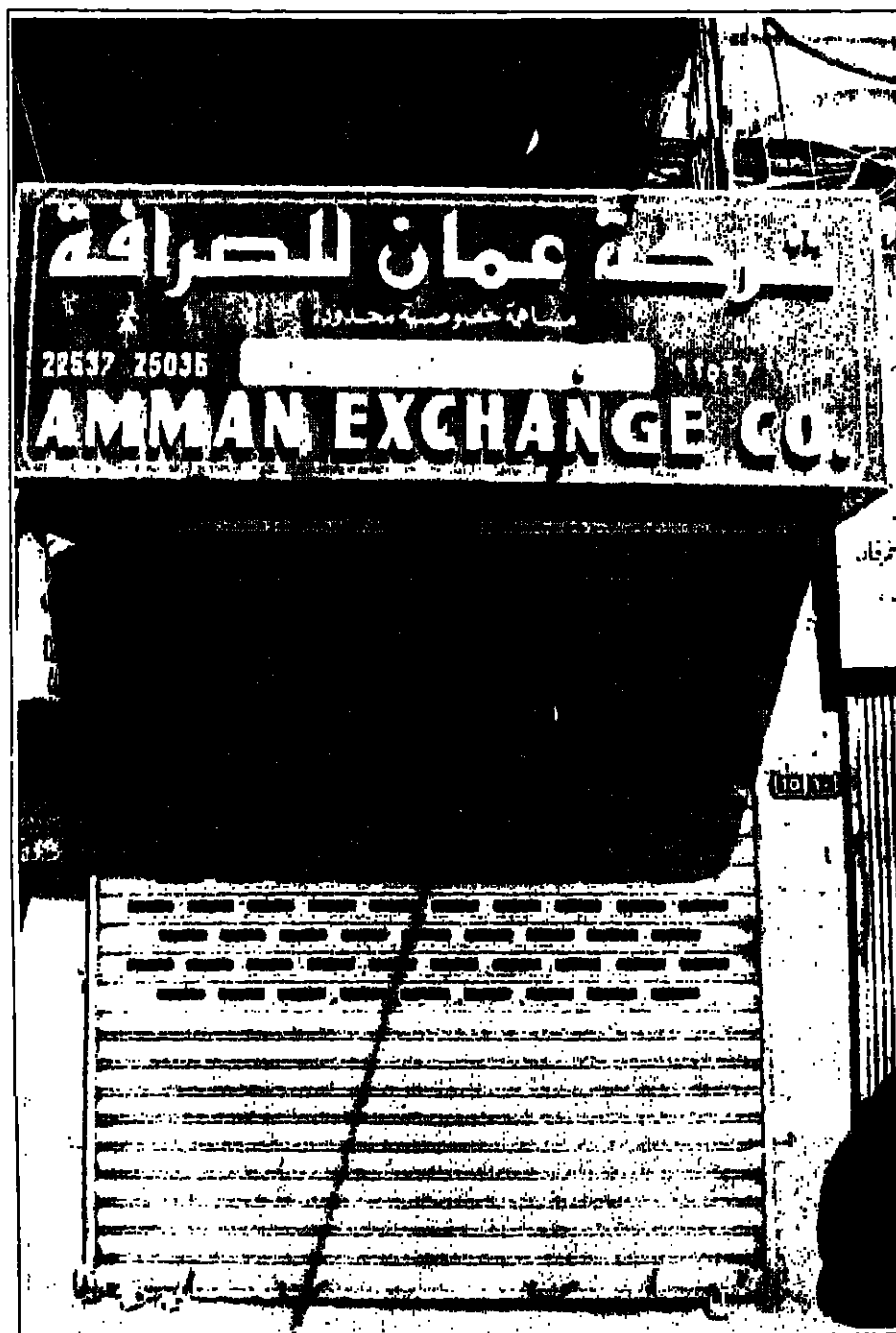
trotoir. Un "marché noir" vient de faire son apparition. "Noir", mais pas complètement. Car les autorités sont au courant de son existence. Elles savent parfaitement qui se cache derrière ce marché de devises parallèle. Ces mêmes autorités ont choisi de le tolérer...

Comment fonctionne ce marché? Au centre-ville d'Amman, des jeunes gens interpellent le passant, en murmurant: "Dollars, Deutschmarks, Sterlings...". Le système est élaboré. Ceux qui vous interpellent ne sont pas des "changeurs", mais de véritables "chasseurs". Ils ne portent sur eux aucune devise. Si vous le désirez, ils peuvent vous conduire au "grand patron". Quant au taux de change, il est plutôt attrayant. Ce taux "noir" ne diffère que de 1% du taux officiel fixé quotidiennement par la Banque Centrale. Il est donc possible de retirer des devises clandestines, sans crainte d'être "roulé".

Le gouvernement ne pouvait rester les bras croisés devant une telle situation. Il opte donc pour la flexibilité et présente un projet de loi au Parlement en faveur de la réouverture des "guichets de change". La loi est adoptée. Mais son application se fait toujours attendre.

Loi sévère

Avant la fermeture des "guichets de change", Tayseer dirigeait une petite "boutique" (autorisée) du centre-ville. Après, il a vu ses activités se réduire à une plus petite échelle. Sa maison est alors devenue son Q.G. L'adoption de la nouvelle loi semble constituer une ouverture pour les affaires de Tayseer. Il a ouvert sa bonne vieille "boutique" alors qu'il n'a pas encore obtenu sa licence. Ne craint-il pas les foudres des auto-



Bientôt l'ouverture des grilles? Photo Moustafa Kadi

rités? Non, affirme-t-il: "L'Etat sait bien que nous devons travailler pour vivre. D'ailleurs, je ne fais pas de la spéculation sur le dinar. J'ai adopté le taux de change officiel de la Banque Centrale, plus un demi-point de marge bénéficiaire". Tayseer n'est pas dupe. Seul, il n'obtiendra jamais l'autorisation d'exercer. "La nouvelle loi est très sévère, elle exige un capital opérationnel que je n'ai pas. Un demi million de dinars!" Tayseer cherche donc des partenaires pour pouvoir réunir le capital requis. "D'ici là, déclare-t-il sans ambages, je continuerai à travailler au noir".

Un couple entre dans la boutique de Tayseer. Salamah et son épouse cherchent des "livres" syriens. Le couple envisage de passer une semaine de vacances sur les plages du Nord de la Syrie. Mais Tayseer ne peut répondre à la demande. Madame Salamah, poste contre la buise du

dinar. Nostalgique, elle évoque le temps où elle pouvait faire plusieurs voyages à l'étranger avec son mari. Où elle pouvait acheter des produits de luxe occidentaux. "Cela n'est plus possible" regrette-t-elle. Monsieur Salamah, plus philosophe et terre-à-terre préfère voir les choses du bon côté: "Sur le plan personnel, cette situation est très ennuyeuse, mais la baisse du dinar, c'est aussi très bon pour mon business. Je considère la période actuelle comme une phase d'ajustement. L'économie du pays reste fondamentalement saine. Le tout est de savoir s'adapter".

S.K.

The Star
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L'EDITO

De Amine Chablouf

Stratégie commune

LA REUNION de Damas entre les ministres des A.E. des pays arabes participant aux négociations de paix avec Israël revêt une importance particulière dans le sens de la coordination inter-arabe. En effet, la rencontre a été conclue par un communiqué final dans lequel, Palestiniens, Jordaniens, Syriens, Libanais et Egyptiens ont adopté une position commune, suite aux élections israéliennes. Celles-ci qui ont ramené un Rabin apparemment plus souple et plus disponible à appliquer la formule américaine: "Les Territoires contre la paix".

Quoique les conditions posées par Farouk al Chareh semblent à première vue relever du domaine de la surenchère, d'aucuns conviennent qu'il s'agit là de l'attitude élémentaire du négociateur. Accepter l'offre, sans pour autant le reconnaître et tenter de grappiller quelques concessions. La preuve: aucune réaction négative de la part de Tol Aviv sur ce sujet n'a été enregistrée.

Inutile de le rappeler. James Baker, qui a parcouru les capitales de la région à la veille de cette réunion, a tellement parié sur le succès possible du prochain round des pourparlers de paix, qu'il en a même rallié l'organisation aux Italiens, et en a décidé la tenue à Washington.

Côté israélien, les gestes de bonne volonté n'ont pas cessé. La suspension de crédits et d'études relatives aux investissements dans les T.O. a été un autre signe d'encouragement pour des Américains qui ont misé sur Rabin et essayé de convaincre les pays arabes à reprendre le bâton de négociation avec la nouvelle équipe dirigeante israélienne.

Reste à savoir si Rabin va être en mesure de calmer une opposition puissante dirigée par le Likoud, parti de Shamir farouchement opposé à tout "deal", quel qu'il soit, avec les pays arabes. Le camp apparent de cette tendance politique israélienne récemment écartée du pouvoir par les urnes, est loin d'être rassurant. Car le risque de mener une opposition sous une nouvelle forme, contre toute concession en faveur des Palestiniens et des Arabes, menace l'Etat hébreu dans ses articulations les plus fragiles. Il est bien sur question du sort de l'économie du pays et donc de celui des colons.

Nul ne doute que Rabin compte sur les garanties de prêt américaines, qui seraient de l'ordre de 10 milliards de dollars, pour sauver la baraque et déjouer les plans des radicaux.

La sérieuse du premier contact de Rabin avec ses interlocuteurs arabes pourra constituer le seul dividende, épic à sauver la région de la journée et ouvrir les perspectives d'un règlement de paix.

AROUND
TOWN

Congratulations!!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....

Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

Elizabeth Arden:

87 and still relaunching

ELIZABETH ARDEN, world famous for skin care, make up and perfumes, relaunches its products Thursday 23 July at a press conference in conjunction with Abu Shakra Gifts. The launch was given by Michael Durant, sales manager for the Middle East, who first discussed the history of Elizabeth Arden the woman — real name Florence Nightingale Graham.

Her company began in 1905 when she invented the first flesh tinted cream for covering scars, "Eight Hour Cream", which is still on sale today.

Attention was focussed on two Elizabeth Arden products being launched, one was an updated



version of the '75 perfume, "Chloé", now called "Chloé Narcisse". This product comes in three versions, a perfume in a purple package with an open

petal lid, an eau de toilette that comes in a rose package with a closed petal lid and a body lotion that comes in a cream package. This new scent is made of floral upper notes and woody base notes giving it a floral, oriental fragrance.

The second product was Elizabeth Arden's Time Complex Capsules, an intensive anti-aging skin treatment. What makes this lotion extra special is that it comes in a plastic, Saturn shaped container holding 60 sealed single dose capsules.

These products are now only available at all Abu Shakra Gifts stores. ■

Getting to grips with science

THE BRITISH Council opened an exciting exhibition at their Rainbow Street center last week, which will be just the solution for restless children with time to spare in school holidays.

"Exploring Science: An Interactive Exhibition", which has been prepared for the British Council for display all around the Arab world, is both educational and informal. Each of its exhibits presents a natural phenomenon or scientific concept in a way that prompts visitors to actually experience the scientific discovery process by touching, observing and experimenting.

Mr Stephen Pizzey, director of the London-based Science Projects, first took the 30-piece exhibition around the UK in a tent, then known as 'The Discovery Dome'. After five years on the road, Science Projects began coordinating with the British Council and eventually took the show to Kuwait and Oman before bringing it to Jordan.

"The idea behind the exhibition was to make science a familiar part of culture and to allow people to explore science in their own way," said Mr Pizzey. He mentioned that the exhibition is particularly successful with children because they are far less inhibited than adults and are happy to "play" with science.

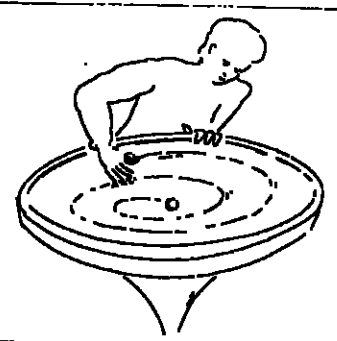
"Socially, it is a fun and interesting exhibition," he said, "and it is not purely educational. The applications can support formal ed-

ucation but can never replace it."

The exhibits cover areas such as mechanics, fluids, light, sound, materials, electricity, electronics and perception. By rolling balls, spinning wheels, fluting pipes, intercepting beams and cranking handles you and your children can "experience" such phenomena.

The exhibition was officially inaugurated by HE The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Mr Thugan Hindawi.

Mr Chris Chislett, British Council director, announced at the opening that interactive learning is in line with the Ministry of Education's new curriculum, and described the exhibition as being



a mark of cooperation between the Ministry and the British Council.

The exhibition will be open to the public until August 19th, from 10 am to 8 pm daily, after which it will be transferred to Irbid and Kerak. ■

● The world famous Le Mans 24 hour sports car race was held last month and the Chief Executive of the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan, Derek Ledger, was one of the five international judges appointed by FISA (the International Motor Sports Federation) to be present at the race. This is the first time that any official from outside Europe has ever been appointed to this important role in a world championship Sports Car race. It reflects the confidence and prestige which FISA has in the kingdom and the organisation of motor sport in the country. Derek Ledger has in the

past also been a judge at world championship rallies in Finland and New Zealand and is one of the FISA inspectors who are sent to report on the standards of all championship rallies throughout the world.

● Fond farewells to Mr Frank Stengel, former mathematics teacher at the French School. After two years in Jordan, Mr Stengel will be remembered most for his ponytail — which even gave our very own Riad Khouri a run for his money! Maa Salaama and Bon Voyage.

Wedding Congratulations!



● Congratulations to Maher Talal Saleem and Afaf Radi who were married on Friday 17 July at the home of the groom. Many friends and relatives attended to share in the happy occasion.

KEEPING FIT

Q. IS IT really important to exercise for weight loss?

A: That all depends on how much you like to eat and how fast you want to lose weight. Of course, it is entirely possible to lose a lot of weight just by dieting and never lifting a finger. Weight Watchers have well-balanced weight reducing diet programs that encourage exercise but don't require it for weight loss, and are proof that it's possible to successfully lose weight without exercise.

I don't recommend dieting without exercise whenever possible. Exercise is the most valuable and beneficial means of losing and maintaining weight.

Exercise offsets the food you consume. A person who exercises regularly has a higher metabolism rate, burns calories faster and can thereby enjoy more foods than a person who never exercises.

Take for example two 75 kilo females who want to weigh 60 kilos. One leads a sedentary lifestyle while the other is moderately active. The sedentary female should eat only about 1,300 calories per day to reach her goal. The active one can enjoy slightly more than 2,000 calories per day and still lose the weight at the same rate.

There is a difference between weight loss in terms of fat kilos and loss of muscle and centimeters. If you diet without exercise, you may be losing 70 per cent fat tissue and only 30 per cent fatty tissue. If you're going to lose, make sure you lose the right thing. By combining diet and exercise, that ratio can be more than reversed. ■

KIDS ARE lucky. Their skin fits perfectly. But as you age, your skin gets too big for you: It loses its resiliency and stretches out and sags and wrinkles. In a culture like ours that venerates youth and can't face the natural process of aging, nobody wants old skin.

This is why pharmacies have whole shelves of stuff you can put on your face to save your skin, and why larger stores have even more and fancier stuff. Moisturizers, night creams, performing creams, hydrating fluids, oils, wrinkle lotions, etc. Stuff made with exotic ingredients such as sesame oil, avocado oil, gentian and apricot pits. Not to mention propylene glycol, benzothionium chloride, stearic acid and methylchloroisothiazolinone.

Only one problem. As dermatologist Marie Carlin explains, all this stuff that's meant to save your skin works only on the layer that's already dead and in the process of flaking off.

You have skin for a reason: It functions as a barrier between your body and the outside world, keeping bad stuff from getting inside and gumming up the works...and it does just as good a job of protecting your living cells from avocado oil and methylchloroisothiazolinone as from acid rain and nasty bacteria.

This is not to say all that stuff on the shelves is useless. Walking around covered with dead skin sounds unattractive enough, but it's worse if it actually looks dead. Moisturizers plump up the dead skin cells with water and coat them with oil to keep the water from evaporating, which makes them look less dead.

Health: Skin: An owner's manual



But only two things you can buy in pharmacies make any real difference to the live skin cells underneath the layer of flaky dead cells. Sunscreens keep rays of sun from reaching live skin cells — and sun is what screws up live cells to begin with, clumping them up and causing them to lose their elasticity and sag and wrinkle. (This is why even people with lots of wrinkles on their faces can have baby-smooth bottoms.) When you see an advertisement that promises a moisturizer will "help stop wrinkles," check the fine print: It probably contains a sunscreen.

Dr Carlin says you should wear a sunscreen every day, even when you're not going to the beach. And, because so much sun damage is done by the age of 20, she says it's particularly important to reach teen-agers and mothers of young children. Lots of mothers are buying sunscreens though teen-agers are slower to get the message. Most of them probably can't imagine being 40,

not to mention worrying about what their skin will look like then.

The other thing that makes a difference to live skin cells is retinoic acid, a vitamin A derivative made by Ortho and sold by prescription as Retin-A, which has been shown to reverse sun damage. There are even indications it may help prevent some skin cancer, which has been increasing at

record rates. Though Retin-A works, it can be irritating until you get used to it, making skin red, dry and scaly. It also makes skin more vulnerable to new sun damage, so it's crucial that people who use it wear sunscreens. One catch: Since Retin-A can make skin more sensitive, a face treated with it seems even more likely to be irritated by sunscreens, it is "a very irritating chemical," according to Carlin. If you're sensitive to it, it can feel like liquid fire on your face and produce a nasty rash. So, she says, there's been a lot of interest recently in PABA-free sunscreens. But even some of those will irritate sensitive facial skin. According to Carlin, all you can do is try different ones until you find one that doesn't hurt. She advises patients to shop for sunscreen at department store cosmetic counters, where you can often get free samples, so you can try a brand a few times before you — and she recommends that they look for broad-spectrum sunscreens, which protect skin from both UVA and UVB rays, since even rays that don't cause sunburn cause skin damage. ■

Child psychology:

A bribe is not a present

By Vesna Marsharqa

ASK YOURSELF how many times you have bought chocolates or toys for your child because you felt guilty? How many times have you bribed your child to do something by promising him a present, or threatening him not to buy it for him?

Many parents do not distinguish a present from a bribe. While a present is a sign of love, mutual understanding and respect, a bribe is an attempt to control another person's reactions on behalf of love and care. A bribe is always a way of humiliating others.

Parents usually bribe their children whenever they want to control their behavior. Sometimes it is a way of saying, "I am sorry for not being there for you when you needed me." It is evident that working parents are more prone to bribing their chil-

dren than non-working ones. They have the wrong belief that children are mainly concerned about the quantity of time spent with them rather than quality.

What really matters to the child is to share with his parents his feelings, opinions, intentions and expectations. As soon as chocolate or toys start substituting statements like: I love you; I am sorry for forgetting your birthday; I was wrong to hit you yesterday, it can also be a form of accusation, or a transfer of guilt, like: I know that you hate me because I do not know how to deal with you, but this toy will assure you that I still love you.

Presents bought at a time when the parent-child relationship is not open, sincere and positive, create confusion in the child's understanding of his own needs and feelings. If the parents keep up with such attitudes throughout the child's life, it will prevent

both sides from developing a close relationship and will block the child's learning process about dealing with the other people's feelings, as much as with his own. The child will grow up with constant dissatisfaction, substituting his needs by materialistic achievements and evaluating others by how much they can give him. He may not know how to deal with other people's feelings or form a loving relationship.

Psychology says that all problems start in childhood. This is a very simple example of how they can grow and get complicated. In order to avoid such dramatic experiences in parenting, just think twice before you buy presents for your children and think about how you spend time with them.

■ Vesna Marsharqa is a clinical psychologist who invites readers to write in to The Star PO Box 9313, Amman.

ALCAZAR HOTEL AQABA ANNOUNCES...

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The Star's Guide

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
1 August -
7 August

ENGLISH PROGRAM

12:00 — Olympics (Summary)
until 1:00.

SATURDAY

12:00 — Olympics (Athletics, shooting and diving) until 4:00.
8:30 — Super Bloopers.
9:00 — Olympics (Gymnastics).
10:00 — News in English.
12:00 — Olympics (Summary) until 1:30.

SUNDAY

12:00 — Olympics (Athletics, rowing, boxing, archery and yachting) until 5:30.
8:30 — Wings.
9:00 — Olympics.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Olympics (Gymnastics and summary) until 1:30.

MONDAY

12:00 — Olympics (Athletics, table tennis, diving and equestrian) until 7:00.
8:30 — Close to Home.
9:00 — Olympics (Athletics, weightlifting and boxing).
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Olympics (Athletics, boxing and summary) until 1:30.

TUESDAY

12:00 — Olympics (Archery, table tennis, summary, diving) until 6:00.
8:30 — Acropolis Now.
9:00 — Olympics (Jumping).
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Oscar Feature Film. "An Ideal Husband." Starring Pauline Goddard.

WEDNESDAY

12:00 — Olympics (Athletics and dressage) until 2:30.
8:30 — Saved by the Bell.
9:00 — Wednesday Forum.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Olympics (Table tennis, Wrestling and summary) until 1:30.

THURSDAY

12:00 — Olympics (Athletics, boxing, swimming) until 6:00.
8:30 — The Simpsons.
9:00 — Olympics (Gymnastics) until 1:30.

FRIDAY

12:00 — Olympics (Athletics, walking, tennis and swimming) until 6:00.
8:30 — Olympics. Swimming.
9:10 — Root into Europe. New comedy mini series.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Olympics (Volleyball, basketball and summary) until 1:30.

SATURDAY

12:00 — Olympics (Archery, table tennis, summary, diving) until 6:00.
8:30 — Acropolis Now.
9:00 — Olympics (Jumping).
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Oscar Feature Film. "An Ideal Husband." Starring Pauline Goddard.



The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation and
The American Center - Amman
present

MICHAEL CALDWELL

Piano Recital

Wednesday, August 5, 1992 at 8:00 p.m.
The Royal Cultural Center - Main Theatre

In the programme: Bach's French Suite, Beethoven's Moonlight, Chopin's Polonaise and others.

Tickets for JD 8 each are available at:

- The Royal Cultural Center, Tel. 660026
- Babtain, Tel. 661322
- The American Center - Amman, Abdoun, Tel. 626161
- Rihaili, Tel. 661322
- Xerox Copy Center, Abdoun, Tel. 660044
- The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 661420



Barcelona '92

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FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les Petites Histoires Presque Vraies.
6:04 — Les Tortues Ninja.
6:30 — La Gymnastique.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fenetre Sur. A local program.
10:20 — Feature film: Les Carnassiers. Starring Jean Carmet and Wedek Sianzake.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Valliant.
5:50 — Des Chiffres et des Lettres.
6:10 — La Chance Aux Chansons. A variety program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Magazine. E-M6. A scientific magazine.

LUNDI

6:00 — Au Claire de Lune.
6:10 — Le monde sous Marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The weekly sports magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Les Aventures de Joe.
6:10 — Documentaire: A travers un miroir.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Le Beaux-moments du Cirque.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le Monde est à Vous. A variety and cultural program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Documentaire: Azimuts.

JEUDI

6:00 — Circus Partenaires.
6:30 — Maguy.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varietes.

VENREDI

5:30 — Documentaire: Geoscope.
5:55 — Les Cles de Fort Boyard.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusions. A documentary program.

Changes may occur due to the Olympic coverage.

HOROSCOPE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Your personal life catches fire. A healthy self-interest serves you. Satisfying love affair.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Get whatever is bothering you off your chest, you'll feel relieved. Financial success.

GEMINI (21 May - 21 June): Stay socially mobile. Seek out new faces and places. Inevitable career challenges to hurdle.

CANCER (22 June - 22 July): Find your place in the world. Resolve awkward misunderstandings. Do whatever possible to steady finances.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Expand your intellectual horizons. Plan trips, vacations, outings. Wait for developments.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): You have to let go of something (your feelings?) before good things can come.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): Extra rest may give you a needed edge going into the week. Persist until you complete a job.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Take care of irritating conditions at work; reach new agreements with co-workers.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Use imagination and creativity to bring the joy back into your life. Steer a steady course.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Success starts at home. Stimulate your earning potential. Long-term investments favored.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Sharpen writing skills. More time to gab on the phone. Reinvest in your home.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Put forth a concerted effort to develop your income. Although expenditures may be higher, the money will be there.

IF YOU WERE BORN THIS WEEK: Know your strengths this year and move into a higher standard of living. March challenges your earning powers, but you can meet any test. Focus on travel and communications in May.

HOME MOVIES

"AIR AMERICA" Though the action sequences work well in director Roger Spottiswoode's fact-inspired saga of pilots running a covert aerial service for the CIA during the Vietnam war, attempts at humor and eventual poignancy aren't quite as successful. Still, Mel Gibson and Robert Downey Jr make an appealing duo as the heroes; Nancy Travis is also featured. ★★



Mel Gibson star of "Air America"

TOP HITS

TOP POP SINGLES

1. Baby Got Back, Sir Mix-A-Lot, Reprise
2. Under the Bridge, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Warner Bros.
3. I'll Be There, Mariah Carey, Columbia
4. Damn I Wish I Was Your Lover, Sophie B. Hawkins, Columbia
5. If You Asked Me To, Celine Dion, EPIC
6. Ten-Ten, Arrested Development, Chrysalis
7. Working on a Star, The Cover Girls, Epic
8. Jump, Kris Kross, Columbia
9. My Lovin', En Vogue, ATCO
10. Just Another Day, Jon Secunda, SBK

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Cape Fear, Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1991)
2. Father of the Bride, Steve Martin, Touchstone Home Video, (PG-1991)
3. The Addams Family, Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Paramount Home Video (PG-1991)
4. My Girl, Macaulay Culkin, Anna Chlumsky, Columbia TriStar Home Video (PG-1991)
5. JFK, Kevin Costner, Warner Home Video (PG-1991)
6. Frankie and Johnny, Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer, Paramount Home Video (R-1991)
7. The Butcher's Wife, Demi Moore, Jeff Daniels, Paramount Home Video (R-1991)
8. For the Boys, Bette Midler, James Caan, Fox Video (R-1991)
9. The Last Boy Scout, Bruce Willis, Damon Wayans, Warner Home Video (R-1991)
10. Kuffs, Christian Slater, MCA/Universal Home Video

Would You Believe....

Thomas A. Edison invented the first talking doll. Only two are believed to be in existence today of those produced in 1888.

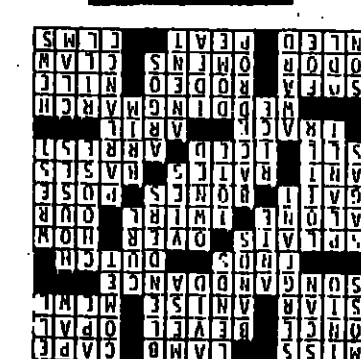
Vitamins were first discovered in 1912 by F.G. Hopkins and Casmir Funk.

Recent work on a new subway line in Rome produced some unexpected benefits. Excavators discovered extensive underground ruins dating from the days of the Roman Empire.

After the great ballet dancer Nijinsky died, doctors cut open and examined his feet, believing his foot bones were different from those of ordinary men. The autopsy revealed nothing unusual.

"Judo" in Japanese means "the gentle way."

Solution



JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

Intervention obligation

USUALLY, YOU over-call at the direct position with seven to fifteen points, the vulnerability and the level of the over-call are the most important factors.

The suit should be a good suit because your partner would count on you for defensive tricks in this suit, normally the suit should be a five cards suit, but rarely it could be four cards only. In this case, the suit should be something like AKJ 10 at least.

The over-call over 1N opening is little bit different, the points should be more and the suit should be good in terms of length and strength.

The more effective over-calls are those which show two known suits through some conventions that had been agreed upon by the partnership.

Failing to use a national or conventional over-call gives partner the right to draw negative inferences, this situation is usually solved against one of a suit opening since your partner in the balancing position is obliged to balance with eight points only.

But failing to over-call directly after a one notrump opening may create a disaster for your side since your partner needs more points and incentives to reopen the auction.

Take this example from a recent open pairs session:

♠ AQ986
♥ KJ109
♦ 9
♣ Q84

♠ KJ2
♥ A75
♦ KQ107
♣ A62

♠ 1074
♥ 63
♦ A8642
♣ JT05

West opened 1N and North should over-call:

2♣ is the natural over-call
2♦ is the Astro convention to show Spades and another
2♥ is Brozel (or Truscot) to show Hearts and Spades
2♠ is handy to show both majors

Whatever you play, you must over-call otherwise you are heading towards a disaster.

When North passed and led a spade, six tricks was their limit in defence while their side can make eight tricks in the reachable 2♠ contract.

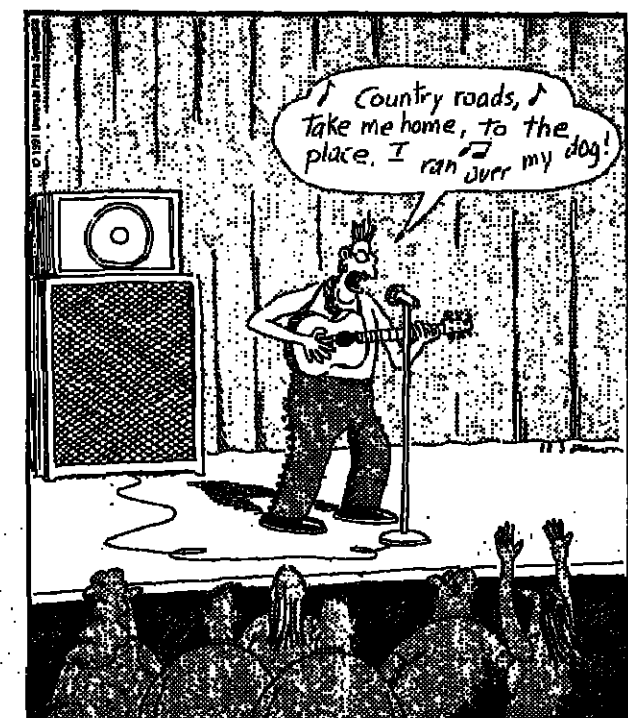
When North opened the travelling score sheet to score the result he realized how guilty he was when he answered the only score in the E-W column.

THE FAR SIDE

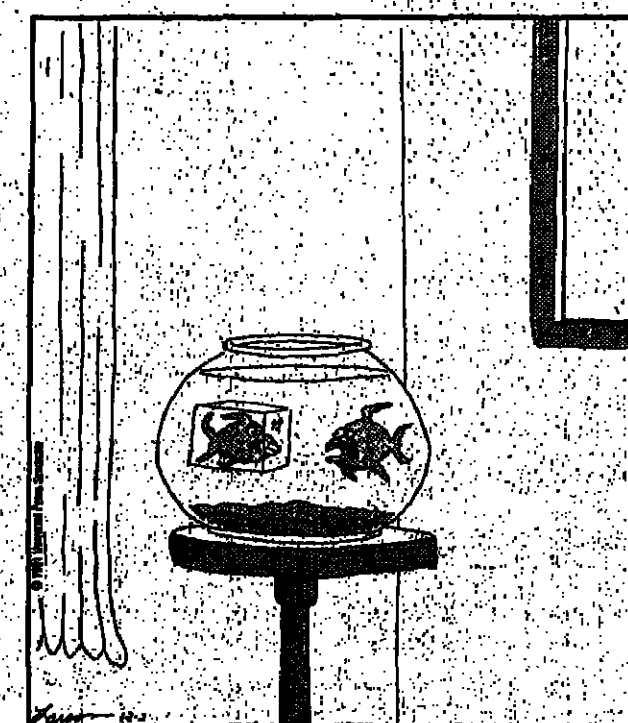
By GARY LARSON



Of course, prehistoric neighborhoods always had that one family whose front yard was strewn with old mammoth remains.



John Denver on the comeback trail



"You're a cold fish, Raymond."